"CAVANDER'S
Army Club"
CIGARETTES
Sold by the leading Tobacconists everywhere.
20 for 1/1, 50 for 2/8

A BARGAIN INDEED—THE "J.B." PEN. Coupon on Page 14.

JOHN BULL

VOL. XXV. No. 659. SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1919. TWOPENCE.

[*Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.*]

Give up RENT

You can save hundreds of Pounds by buying your own house under the "City Life" simple system of quarterly instalment payments.

Write for Booklet, free from D.B. I J.B.

CITY LIFE Assurance Co. Ltd.
(D. Bailey, Gen. Manager)
5, PAUL ST., FINSBURY, E.C.2

Edited by HORATIO BOTTOMLEY

WHITE-WASHED AND DECORATED

By Appointment to H.M. The King.

The sale of fresh milk is now greatly restricted in hotels, restaurants and catering establishments generally, but as the Food Controller's Order expressly excludes Condensed Milk ask to be supplied with

IDEAL MILK

which, when diluted, replaces fresh milk for every purpose, at about same price, or undiluted instead of cream — which is unobtainable — in coffee, tea or cocoa, or with stewed fruits, porridge, etc.

Always Fresh and Pure.

PLENTIFUL SUPPLIES

Obtainable everywhere 11½d. Controlled price per tin

Book of Recipes free from the Sole Proprietors:
NESTLÉ'S, 6-8, EASTCHEAP, E.C. 3

Have *YOU* accepted ? JOHN BULL'S ?

Gift to Every Reader

(IN GREAT BRITAIN).

VALUE 8/- A UNIQUE VALUE 8/-

FREE FIRE INSURANCE

Covering all risks by FIRE to

HOME, LIFE and LIMB.

UNDER this scheme, which is the most unique FREE INSURANCE OFFER ever made, anyone can be insured irrespective of sex, between the ages of 10 and 70. **The premium charged by any Fire and Accident Insurance Company to secure the benefits we prov de would certainly exceed 8s. per annum. We offer it to you absolutely free.**

We have made our insurance as simple and comprehensive as possible, and shall not bother about any "Legal representative" or "next of kin." We shall pay the amount of the insurance to the registered reader, who must personally sign the coupon, or to the person nominated thereon, and to no one else. **A separate coupon must be filled up in respect of each person to be insured.**

A Magnificent Success.

The first announcement in last week's "John Bull" of this amazing and absolutely unprecedented free insurance scheme has flooded our offices with registration forms from thousands of readers who recognised the wisdom of instantly securing for themselves the protection we are offering without a penny of expense. The success of our offer excels our greatest anticipations and we hope that every one of our readers in Great Britain will at once follow the example of those who have already accepted our free fire insurance policy.

WHAT WE WILL PAY

For Damage to contents of Home by Fire up to	£200
In Case of Death directly due to Fire at Registered Reader's home	£200
For the Loss of Two Limbs or Both Eyes, or One Limb and One Eye	£200
For the Loss of One Limb or One Eye ...	£100
Medical Fees for Injuries not proving fatal but incapacitating the insured person from following his, or her, employment, up to ...	£10
In the event of a Temporary Total Disablement up to 13 weeks ...	£1 Per Week

CONDITIONS.

This offer applies only to persons over 10 years and under 70 years of age residing in, and property situated in, England, Scotland, and Wales.

Any number of persons in one family may be separately insured provided an order for JOHN BULL is placed and a registration form is forwarded in respect of each person.

Claims, which must be confined to one of the benefits, must be received by us within three days of the loss or damage, and in the case of death such death must occur within thirty days, and as a direct and sole result of the injury.

Payment will be made subject to any rights which the claimant may have acquired against, or under, any other Insurance Scheme, Company, or otherwise, and the Proprietors of JOHN BULL shall not be liable until the registered reader has exhausted his or her rights under such insurance.

This offer applies only to the dwelling-house, apartments or dwelling rooms attached to business premises, of the registered reader, but not to business premises or stock-in-trade.

We reserve to ourselves the right to limit our total payments under this scheme to £10,000, and to discontinue or make any variation of this offer by the publication of notice in JOHN BULL.

The decision of the proprietors of JOHN BULL upon all questions shall be final.

In order to safeguard ourselves it is stipulated that a fire will not be recognised as such unless a call has been made upon and answered by a Fire Brigade.

To remain qualified for the benefits, readers must continue to have "John Bull" regularly supplied to them.

FILL IN THE FORMS TO-DAY

ORDER FORM

TO BE RETAINED BY NEWSAGENT.

To.....Newsagent

.....

Please deliver JOHN BULL to me regularly until further notice

Signed.....

Address.....

.....

January 18, 1919.

You must also fill in the Registration Form, which will be found next to this, and post it to JOHN BULL Insurance Dept., 93 Long Acre, London, W.C.2, where your name and the name of your nominee will be duly registered.

Enclose 1d. stamp for acknowledgment of receipt of coupon for registration.

REGISTRATION FORM

Which must be posted to—
JOHN BULL INSURANCE DEPT., Long Acre, W.C.2.

This is to notify that I have this day placed an order for the regular weekly supply of JOHN BULL with

.....Newsagent, of

.....

and desire you to register me as a regular subscriber under the terms of your Insurance Scheme.

In the event of my being injured or killed, or of my home or its contents being damaged, I hereby nominate to receive any payment due under this insurance, first myself, or in the event of my death:—

Name of Nominee.....

Address.....

Signature of Insured.....
(Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Address of home.....

Jan. 18
1919. .....

FILL IN THE FORMS TO-DAY

"JOHN BULL" INSURANCE QUESTIONS.

Some Points Cleared Up.

J. S. (Putney) and others.—No, the form you sent in for our *Air Raid* Insurance scheme does not cover you under our new Fire Insurance Policy. Fill in the forms at the foot of this page without delay.

S. S. (Ilford).—Both your wife and yourself can be insured under our new scheme; each of you should sign and forward a registration form.

"ALREADY INSURED" (Bolton).—As you say, the contents of your home have increased in value during the war, and additional insurance is necessary if you are to be fully protected. The JOHN BULL Free Fire Insurance gives you the extra protection you need.

F. J. J. (Southampton).—There is no charge whatever.

"EIGHT SHILLINGS" (Cardiff).—So you'd never worried about fire insurance, eh? Well, as you've sent us your registration form, you needn't worry now!

MRS. F. G. H. (Notting Hill).—The fact that you are already insured against fire does not disqualify you. Under our scheme, you obtain the extra protection on your furniture, as well as covering all risks to life and limb and providing for disablement.

G. A. C., JUN. (Greenhays).—Sorry to hear about your missing arm, but it does not disqualify you from accepting our Free Fire Insurance.

"JACK" (Rotherham).—A distinct order must be placed for JOHN BULL by each person to be insured.

"SAMMY" (W.C.).—All members of the Allied Forces residing in Great Britain are eligible for our Free Fire Insurance.

MRS. W. R. J. (Edmonton).—By registering under our scheme, your present fire insurance will not be in any way affected. See also reply to Mrs. F. G. H. above.

"UNCERTAIN" (Leeds).—It is not necessary to fill in a form every week.

"FATHER OF THREE" (Bath).—Yes, you can send the extra copies of JOHN BULL (which you obtain in order to effect an insurance on your sons and daughter) to your friends in the Colonies.

"FLAT-DWELLER" (S.W.17).—Residents in flats are eligible for our Free Fire Insurance just like ordinary householders.

H. H. F. (Brighton).—You need not save each issue of JOHN BULL to prove you are a regular reader. Your brother who is helping to keep "The Watch on the Rhine" must not be deprived of his copy.

"REMOVAL" (Middlesbro').—When you move at the end of the month, simply send us a registration form giving your new address, so that we can file it.

"WORKER" (Sculcoates).—All seven registration coupons to hand. It's quite a good idea of yours to have brought our Free Fire Insurance Policy to the notice of your shopmates. Thanks!

"WONDERING" (Barrow).—The insurance commences as soon as we receive your registration form.

(A large number of enquiries are being answered by post. Readers whose questions are not replied to above should hear from us within a few days).

JOHN BULL

Come the three corners of the world in arms,
And we shall shock them.

The Paper on which the Sun Never Sets.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Naught shall make us rue,
If Britain to itself do rest but true.

Vol. XXV. No. 659. **Week ending Saturday, January 18th, 1919.** **Twopence.**

"THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL."

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

The New Ministry.
All we shall say about it at the moment is to wish it luck and hope for the best. You know the tag usually accompanying that hope.

Exit "F. E."
The only item of personal interest is the elevation of Sir Frederick Smith to the Woolsack. Young as he is, the King's conscience will be quite safe in his keeping.

The Chief Justice-ship.
Isn't it about time this important post were taken out of commission? If, as is freely reported, Lord Reading prefers political to judicial life, what is the matter with Mr. Justice Darling—or *must* we have a politician?

Sea Power.
There are persistent rumours that President Wilson will insist upon disarmament on sea as well as on land. In the meantime, America is busy building a big navy!

"Too Much Wilson."
Wonderful how this phrase of ours has caught on! We are very grateful for such help as America gave us—but Last In and First Out doesn't constitute a claim to dictate terms.

Ireland.
Next week we shall give *our* solution of the problem. It will have to be tackled without delay—or we shall look like rare humbugs with all our talk about self-determination and the rest of it.

Controlled Prices.
Isn't it about time these were abolished? We know of many farms stocked with fine breeds of milking cows, and yet the cry from all in the districts is "no butter," and little milk. Come, Mr. Who-ever-you-Are in the new Government!

A Busy Fortnight.
As will be gathered from our leading article, we have not lost much time since our election in getting to work—and in redeeming our pledge to South Hackney to be, once more, its "real, live Member."

Watch America!
How do you like this extract from recent proceedings in the U.S.A. Parliament? Representative Kelly: "Have England and the United States enough ships to police the world?" Admiral Badger: "Yes, I think so." Kelly:—"Then is it necessary to build any more ships?" Badger: "Not if we are going to allow some other nation to look after our interests." The sooner Mr. Wilson can find time to run back home, the better.

"Gib."
There would be curious irony in the fact if Gibraltar proved to be the rock on which the delegates split. Remember Heligoland!

The Barbers' Strike.
Is it true that one of the grievances of the men now on strike is that German barbers are being released from internment and are resuming work in this country?

The House and Drink.
The self-denying ordinance of the House of Commons to bring its liquid refreshment arrangements into line with those of the country generally, came to an end with the dissolution. Will it be renewed?

The King's Resolution.
And with the end of the war, we venture to hope that His Majesty's table will once more be adorned by good drink. A teetotal King of England is unthinkable. No Army would fight for him.

No Cause for Anxiety.
Our verdant contemporary, the *Westminster Gazette*, hopes we shall remember what we have said about the practical disfranchisement of the soldier at the recent election, when we get to Parliament. Our dear brother's anxiety will soon be relieved.

Combatant Clerics.
In our gratitude to the splendid padres who have done so much in the war, we must not forget the clergy who joined up as combatants, and many of whom, wounded and broken, are now returning from the Front to find no Living open for them. Here's something for the Bishop of London to tackle!

That Indemnity.
Will the Peace Conference bear in mind the precedent of the Ottoman Public Debt Commission, and appoint an International Debt Commission to sit in Berlin in order to collect all taxes and revenue and, after providing for the minimum necessary expenditure, hand over the balance to the Allies?

Still Asleep!
The *Manchester Guardian* — still asleep — speaks of "Horse Racing and Betting and the whole business of national demoralisation which they connote"—such, for instance, as the breeding of blood stock, Army Remounts, and a variety of subordinate industries. We noticed nothing very demoralising in character at Manchester, when three of our own old crocks captured races there the other day. Indeed, we felt distinctly better!

Our Free Fire Insurance.
We certainly thought this would be a popular new feature of our journal, but its reception has surpassed all expectations. Have you availed yourself of the offer?

Quite So!
"There is nothing," says the *Spectator Review*, "to prevent Mr. Bottomley from taking his seat on the Front Bench and leading the Opposition." But we shan't at any rate at present.

The O.B.E.
We recently gave a reader's list-position of these initials as "Owe Boys Everything." And now comes a more sinister definition: "Order of Bad-Eggs." But what about "Only British Heirs Eligible"?

The P. M.'s Task.
This is how *Cassell's Saturday Journal* sums up the job of the Prime Minister: "Fifty millions of Britons to cater for on the one hand, and Horatio Bottomley on the other!" Well, we *are* rather fastidious!

Significant!
At the recent Election the three last majorities secured by candidates who stood without the Government "coupon" were those of ourselves, as Independent, and General Page Croft and Sir Richard Cooper, the pioneers of the National Party. "Coming events," etc.

News from London.
We are often amused at the way in which "news" is dished up for consumption abroad. Here is the *Milwaukee Journal* telling its readers that Mr. Asquith's opponent at the General Election was "Horatio Bottomley, Member of Parliament for South Hackney, who got rich on mining stocks"!

Germany's Mercantile Marine.
This is one of the very first things to be tackled by the Peace Conference. Germany is only a million tons short of her pre-war capacity, whilst Britain alone is over two and a half millions out - after allowing for all rebuilding. Ton for ton—and one for his nob"—should be our motto.

A Word with the Shipping Controller.
Will Sir Joseph Maclay kindly explain the meaning of the recent relaxation of the embargo upon the sale of ships to foreign countries—provided that they are at least fifteen years old? Surely many a merchantman of that age is able to do good service pending the days of reconstruction?

Sisters and Padres.

The Army sisters and chaplains note that everybody on home service has a nice twelve days' leave—except themselves. They are murmuring a ladylike and clerical equivalent for that apt colloquialism, "What about it?" The sisters have certainly had a gruelling time, and the padres have not been idle. They have earned their twelve days—easy.

A Cruel Decision.

We submit to the Sittingbourne (Kent) Guardians that they have no right to refuse a mother permission to visit her children in the Workhouse simply because those children are illegitimate. There are lots of nice ways of encouraging morality, but this is not one of them. On the contrary, it implies a harsh and hasty judgment of human frailty in a case which, if it were properly sifted, might call for intelligent sympathy rather than unfeeling censure.

The Bun to Bedford.

For its behaviour to its Specials, Bedford is entitled to take a nice big bun, with currants in it. It provided no uniform, except a cap for a few men on point duty. And now, thinking it can dispense with the Constables, the town suggests they should be invited to a farewell dinner, if they will please pay for it themselves—say, about 5s. each. The Watch Committee and other big bugs of the Council and district, would honour the dinner with their presence—as guests on the free list. It is a cool place, that old town of Bedford.

Who Said "Business Government"?

The arrangements at the Labour Exchanges to deal with women applicants (mostly ex-munition workers) are wretched. At Burnley, for example, long queues of women are waiting for hours in the rain—some with children in their arms or hanging to their skirts. And many, when they do get to the girl clerks inside, are sent back to the factory for papers of which nobody seems to know the where-abouts. It is scandalous that particulars were not taken *before* the women were discharged.

Good News for Tommy.

For donkey's years Tommy has wondered himself into a headache where the canteen money goes. He has been told it goes to pay the band; to support Christian missions abroad; to teach the Colonel's wife how to do her hair; and for other deserving charities too numerous to mention. The Army and Navy Canteens Board shows a profit for 1917 of £531,095, and it is officially announced that the balance of it "will be used for the benefit of the Forces or their dependents, under the direction of the Admiralty and the Army Council." Tommy and Jack should claim their bit at once. They have missed things before.

Deferred Pay.

A holiday without pay is more like being out of work. Recognising this, the Hackney Projectile Factory, when it decreed a fortnight's enforced rest over the year's end, magnificently ordered four days' money to be given, 19s. 4d. for men and 10s. 8d. for women. To obtain this, they had to journey daily for a week to the Labour Exchange, to register, and to wait for the amount. Work recommenced on January 6th, when nobody had been paid, the dole being promised on January 10th. Incontrovertibly, this was an irritating method of parcelling out an inadequate recompense.

The Red Flag.

In the recent days of "temporary appointments" some queer fish have got into Government employment. What about that little dinner party attended by the staff at one of the Ministry of Food branch centres, where several of the employees declined to drink to the King, substituting the toast of "The Red Flag"? Such scum should be booted out of His Majesty's Service.

Rough on the Waacs.

Some Waacs in the North Countree have been placed in parlous plight. Returning from leave without pay and without ration money, they were first lodged in a Gateshead workhouse, and then discharged, with nothing but a railway pass for home — not even their back pay. Cold, hungry, without a penny in their pockets, many started on the long trail. All had to surrender their uniforms, but some had no civilian clothes!

Parsimonious Pompey.

Once more Portsmouth is guilty of refusing the use of its police ambulance to convey a bad case to hospital, except on payment of the outrageous and extortionate fee of one guinea. Be it remembered that the ambulance is paid for by the ratepayers, and that renders still more odious this greed for guineas to be exacted from the stricken households of the sick or dying. Portsmouth is not the only township on this list of grisly fee-snatchers, but it seems to repeat the offence oftener.

An Important Addendum.

Apropos of our recent suggestion of the King's pardon for juvenile and first offenders as a suitable item in the Peace celebrations, we would add a word of appeal on behalf of lads who, during the absence of their fathers in the Army or Navy, have been sentenced, often for quite trivial offences, to long terms of detention in Industrial or Reformatory Schools. As soon as demobilisation is complete, these youngsters might surely be released on an undertaking from their fathers to be responsible for their good behaviour.

A Hero's Mother.

A poor widow, occupying a room at the Peabody Buildings, City Road, E., is depending on an allowance of 7s. 2d. weekly in respect of her only son who was killed in action last April. The pension is payable on Tuesdays, and the rent on Mondays, so that occasionally she is a day behind. On this ground, apparently, she has now been given notice to clear out of her room; the only other reason she can think of is that a week or two ago, in a moment of annoyance, she made a rather heated rejoinder to the agent who collects the rents. In any case, it is grossly unfair.

A Worse "Frame-Up."

On December 7th we described the proceedings of the man Henshall, who persuades women who had lost sons or husbands in the war to buy one of his precious memorial frames. *We did not mention the name of the particular victim whose experiences we described.* But this lady has now received from an anonymous source a memorial-cross cut out of cardboard. On it is written, "In memory of Amy, the stinking Widdy and Queen of Liars. Also her darling Bhoy, Lost at Sea. May their Souls Roast in Hell and Frazzle when Hell Freezes." The postmark on the wrapper is Hoylake. We want to track down the sender of this infamous thing.

A Warrior of Work.

Under the Knaresborough Council a man's wage for 30 years was 22s. weekly, raised to 23s. last year because of the high cost of living. Obliged to apply for his O.A.P., this old warrior at 81 is informed he is not entitled to one because he was receiving over 8s. a week in wages last year. If that really is the official decision, it takes our breath away.

Chop and Change.

A farmer is curious to know why, in these days of presumptive peace, he should be called on at a moment's notice to send back to barracks—apparently not for discharge—a soldier helper, and to receive another in his place. The man who went understood farm-work; the man who came is a novice. "Military reasons" were stated as the cause of the exchange, and that does not sound convincing at this time of day.

Their Superior Officers.

Stiff and mighty are some of the high-browed bigwigs of the Committee at St. Mary's Hospital, down along by Paddington. When the House Staff proposed a dance to celebrate the new conditions, they dutifully asked permission to invite the nurses. The Committee's reply was that the medical staff should not mix socially with the nurses. If the nurses are not good enough, with whom would the medicos condescend to mix?—Princesses? But Princess Mary has been a nurse, so she, presumably, is also ostracised.

An Old Lady of Courtrai.

Among British subjects in dire distress in Belgium is an old lady of Courtrai. She is over 60, and shares her home with another lady, over 80. She defied the Huns in occupation, even refusing to billet them, and has been so badly treated as to be now in actual need of food. We are asked to whom she is to turn, and we recommend her to the tender mercies of the Secretary of the War Claims Department, Foreign Office, London. Certainly it is a case they should view with a kindly eye, for the brave old soul has kept her end up admirably.

Hospital Workers.

In these dear days it is natural that everybody cries for more money; we could fill our columns with clamant pleas to that end. A modest wail comes from the hospital workers—porters on the surgical staff, for instance, who work terribly long hours for little pay. They have to handle all manner of cases, no matter the disease or risk of infection, and are a body of men working pluckily, out of sight and unknown to the general public. But the Hospital Committees know their value, and to their reasonable claims might in justice open their ears and their coffers.

Make Way for Huns.

Not improbably there are as many born fools among the British military as in any other profession; more, probably, having regard to the fact that the military are legion. But was he a fool, or merely a guard under superior orders, who, while escorting German prisoners to Leasowe Castle, Cheshire, ordered a British pedestrian to leave the footway to let them pass? When the pedestrian demanded the guard's authority for compelling a British citizen to stand down in a British thoroughfare for German prisoners, he was coolly told he could get it at the Castle. No wonder the Huns continued their way grinning. To see the Briton humiliated, how goot vhas it!

To be Made in Germany?

A useful trade-line before war was the rubber watch-stamp, with name and address and a few business words; wholesale price, 9s. a dozen. These little things are again wanted, but the wholesalers declare them unprocurable, because they were made in Germany. But, they add, "We hope to be able to have them after the war"—hope, you see, to get them from Germany again. Are our own manufacturers asleep? A similar question might be asked concerning those nickel alarm clocks, 1s. 11½d., now 12s. 6d. Are we making none at home?

They Dunno Where They Are!

Those munitioners, imported from Australia, now unable to get a boat back, kicking their heels about on an allowance of 5s. a day, are in princely luck compared with some others brought over for contract work. Among them are men from Vickers', ordered for home early in December, but the ship seems to have injured her propeller—or got a screw loose. They have been left stranded ever since, with nothing for dependents, not a penny for themselves, and no word as to date of sailing. The Commonwealth's arrangements, generally considered perfect, have broken down badly.

Hard Lines.

Notwithstanding the protests of a Conference "representing 450,000 of the travelling public," that all-highest Government leech is still bleeding his railway *clientele* with a zeal without conscience and a delight without pity. What is more, he tells them in so many words that war or no war, he will have their blood. There are to be no more pre-war fares and no more pre-war prices for season tickets. If people can't afford to ride they must walk, and be damned to them. That's how we take him, anyway, if his reply to the London and Suburban Passengers' Association is his last word. But perhaps the last word won't be his.

Educational.

To judge by their advertisement in the *Belfast Evening Telegraph*, the Londonderry Board of Guardians have acquired the conscientious conviction that any sort of education is good enough for workhouse kiddies. They offer a schoolmastership in their workhouse at £50 a year, and "in addition to his other duties" the successful candidate "will be required to instruct the boys in labouring a portion of the lands." In this same paper appears an advertisement offering labourers in Belfast 60s. a week. Chaucer tells us of the Clerk in the *Canterbury Tales*, "And gladly wolde he lerne and gladly teche." In Belfast, at any rate, it seems more profitable to shoulder a hod and dig holes in the earth.

Wet Wood Nymphs.

Land girls want big coats and mackintoshes that are really waterproof. The request seems reasonable, for it is no joke to have to turn into billets wet through, dry your clothes, and then turn out again for more duty. The weather has been very weathery of late, and some of these wood nymphs, who describe themselves as up to the eyes in mud and water, are thinking of taking swimming lessons. They are "doing their lump," and deserve protective clothing.

The Cat's-Meat Man's Carriage.

A young soldier, joining up, left his cat's-meat trade in his mother's care. She was suffering through the Folkestone air-raid, so, solely for her convenience, the lad sold his high-wheeled cart and bought a low one, a governess car being all he could find in the market. It is used only for the trade, and is properly painted and inscribed, yet the Folkestone police have turned a lynx eye on it, and a Licence to Keep a Carriage had to be paid for. The cat's-meat man's trade car is levelled up with his lordship's landau, but the distinction is costly, repressive, and ridiculous.

Justice Delayed.

What is the present position in regard to the Middle Age Pension Society, for whose fraudulent inception William Taverner has undergone a term of imprisonment? When last we wrote, a special meeting of members was to be held, and an "Official Statement of Affairs" was promised. Unless the remaining officials of the Society can soon furnish some practical evidence of good faith, we shall have to find means of "gingering" them up. Far too much time has already been lost; those who are suffering are of that most deserving class, the thrifty and aged poor.

Flicking the Raw.

Some things are better left unsaid. The Hon. Treasurer of the Anglo-Spanish Society has stumbled upon one of them. After requesting further particulars from an officer who applied for an advertised secretaryship, the treasurer remarks, "I notice you are 2nd Lieut. after four years' service," and this is followed by a note of exclamation rather a gratuitous sort of sarcasm, we must admit. The fact is the applicant officer—he is in the R.F.A.—was not due for promotion at the time of writing, and he resents the reflection. "We can't all be Colonels or Brigadier-Generals," he says, "and even if we are only second-lieutenants it ought not to stand in our way if we can do the job we are after in civil life." Evil is wrought by want of thought as well as by want of heart.

One of the Foot.

A sergeant of the Royal Warwicks wounded in the left leg, received his discharge, and began to attend Birmingham General Hospital for treatment in January last year. In May he was ordered a surgical boot, and the Citizens' Committee gave the necessary instructions to the makers. But beyond measurements and more measurements, nothing else has happened. The ex-sergeant still limps to hospital a brave foot-soldier without a boot to fit him.

The House Famine.

There is no doubt about the acuteness of the house famine. A munition worker, sent to Chilwell, could get no house there, so stored his furniture and went into diggings for 2½ years. Now, back in London and sighing for his own home once more, he finds it impossible to secure a house. There is none to let as a rule, but the cruel part is that, when on the track of premises, he has been thrice refused because he has a daughter six years old. When the "no children" ban is narrowed to "Not one child," it is time for State interference.

Pity the Poor Inventor.

During the war we frequently called attention to the unfair treatment accorded to inventors. There is still room for complaint. Designs and specifications of which no use has been made are being retained by the Inventions Department without the least acknowledgment of the inventors' rights. In one case the designer has been told that his plans are of "no practical utility," but that they "must be retained for future reference." Doubtless certain safeguards are necessary, but it ought to be possible to devise some fairer arrangement.

German Prisoners in Cambs.

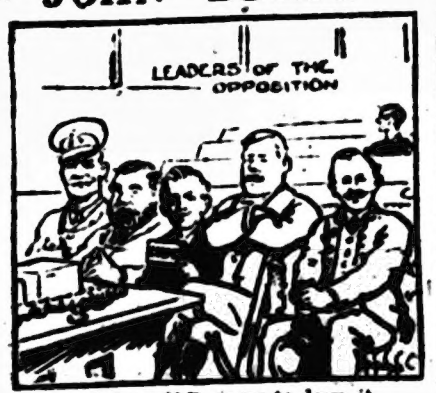
Although the prevalence of Huns in the Littleport district has, as we recently stated, resulted in flooding the labour market, so that our own men, including returned soldiers, are unable to obtain employment, we did an injustice to Mr. J. L. Luddington and his Agent in stating that the cause of their inability to re-engage a Royal Fusilier released from the Army was this plethora of German prisoners on the estate. As a matter of fact no such undesirable has been employed there. The misunderstanding was due to an ambiguous report in a local paper; but, whilst regretting the inaccuracy, we also regret that the surrounding neighbourhood should be so overrun with Huns.

A Good Beginning.

Why not start the New Year well by winning the first prize of £1,000 offered in our "Bullets" Competition this week?

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

'Tis Dilly and Dally who cause the obstructions;
If Geddes don't shunt them, there's bound to be ructions.



Each Labour M.P. seems to deem it his mission
To lead in the Commons H.M.'s Opposition.

A scheme so entrancing they had ne'er seen before;
Of managing Jim's perils they now feel quite sure.

At last Haig declares what we've hinted before
'Twas the foot-slogging Tommy who won us the war.

Candid Communications.

This space is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties and occasionally Nonentities.

To the Right Hon. Austen Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

DEAR CHANCELLOR,—It would be a graceful act if on assuming your present office you would announce some concession in regard to Income Tax upon soldiers' and sailors' pensions and gratuities. I am sorry to say I find that men who upon their discharge are receiving a lump sum in respect of several years' service, are having the whole of the amount taxed as though it were part of their income for a single year. Surely this is most unfair. Public opinion demands more generous treatment for men who have served their King and country at the risk of life and limb. JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. W. M. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia.

DEAR MR. HUGHES,—You are not likely to pay much attention to the snarling criticism of our pacifist rabble, whose hostility is one of the best compliments we have been able to pay you; but I would like to assure you that you retain the full confidence of the best elements in the nation, who look upon your presence at the Versailles Conference as one of our strongest guarantees for a sound and durable peace. I think of you as a man who will be proof alike against Hun intrigue and sentimental cajolery. More power to your arm! JOHN BULL.

To Dr. T. H. C. Stevenson, Superintendent of Statistics, Birth Rate Commission.

DEAR DOC.,—If there is one thing more than another this blessed and beautiful country is longing for, it is statistics "about each person—the name, address, sex, date, place of birth, occupation, marriage, and children." It is true we have been supplying statistics—imported, home-cured, and native-born—for 4½ years, but it is as well to be prepared for the next war; so if you have any more cold storage room, your delight in recommending the harvesting of a further statistical crop to keep you and an army of officials for many moons to come, is to be commended. JOHN BULL.

To Mr. F. C. Haynes, Secretary, Food Production Committee, Town Hall, Bedford.

DEAR SIR,—After the allotment-holders at Quenly's Field had got terrible land into good order, you raised the rent for 10 poles from 4s. to 5s., saying that increase promised permanent occupation. Now you have whacked on another shilling, so that a field valued at 25s. an acre produces £4 16s. for that area. Perhaps you have been to see the play called "Going Up!" and the idea has lodged in your brain cells. What the allotment-holders wish to know is, when are you going to stop? To which I would add, Why not come down? JOHN BULL.

To A. R. Duckering, Esq., J.P., Kirton-in-Lindsey.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to the impudent forgery of a testimonial alleged to have been given by you to the discharged soldier Stanley Fox-Kirk, I am now informed that your brother, Mr. E. Duckering, who was appointed Secretary to the local Food Committee, was appointed temporarily without remuneration, and that you had nothing to do with this appointment. I am glad to be able to say so. JOHN BULL.

To G. J. Caldwell, Esq., J.P., Hereford Police Court.

DEAR MAGISTRATE,—At a recent Children's Court at Hereford over which you presided, a 14-year-old boy named William Turner was brought up on a charge of "feloniously stealing a mouth-organ." The lad had clearly been guilty of a petty theft, and I daresay deserved some reasonable punishment; but I am bound to say that in sending the youngster away to a Reformatory School for five years, you grossly exceeded your duty. On looking into the case, I can find not the least justification or excuse for tearing this child away from his home and spoiling the rest of his boyhood's days. For the future, please arrange not to sit in Children's Courts. JOHN BULL.

To Mr. T. F. Tunna, Food Executive Officer, Oswestry.

DEAR MR. TUNNA,—It appears that you have very little to say for yourself in reply to my criticism of your conduct in going to the Magistrates for an Ejectment Order against a widow whose livelihood depended on the possession of the house. You now tell us that you wanted to get married, and that you offered another house to the widow. The answer to this is that the good woman earned her living by letting lodgings, and the house you offered—even if it had been empty, which I am told it was not—was quite unsuitable for this purpose; although, as far as one can judge, it would have done nicely for you. That's it, and all about it. Now run away. I'm busy. JOHN BULL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Market Committee, Chipping Sodbury.

GENTLEMEN,—I have heard of the abominable cruelty which calves are allowed to suffer at the fortnightly sales in your town. Brought in from surrounding farms, these poor helpless creatures are tied to hurdles with ropes so short that they are unable to lie down when tired, poor little beasts, without strangling themselves. With no provision for their comfort, they are kept tied up—cold, wretched, and hungry, until late afternoon. You must put an end to this at once, gentlemen. JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. C. D. Fothergill, Drax, Yorkshire.

DEAR VICAR,—I understand that a Memorial Service was recently held at the Drax Parish Church in remembrance of a British soldier, who, while a prisoner-of-war in Germany, had been brutally murdered by a Hun sentry. Yet you actually took it upon yourself to exclude the Press from the proceedings, and even interfered to prevent the relatives from giving any information to a reporter. There is not the least reason to believe that in so acting you were interpreting the wishes of the family. What's your size in hats? JOHN BULL.

"JOHN BULL'S" PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU.

SAMPLES OF THE CASES WHICH CALL FOR JUSTICE.

Apart from the activities of the Editor in dealing with the trouble with the soldiers, referred to elsewhere, many questions have reached the Bureau this week regarding the demobilisation problem. Some of the men of the Salonica forces are being very badly treated. These soldiers enlisted under the Derby scheme early in the war, and have been on continuous service in the East for several years with practically no leave to "Blighty." Having undergone the rigours of one unhealthy climate all this time, they are now being called upon to face another unhealthy spot—Russia, while *conscripts* are being demobilised and sent home. When it is stated that many of the "Derby men" are miners and so forth, the position becomes more intolerable.

The legitimate complaints of many Civil servants will have to be met by the authorities. When the Superannuation Act, 1909, became law all Civil servants were allowed to adopt its valuable provisions except those who were not passed fit. Those in the latter category may serve for a quarter of a century with practically no sick leave against them, and yet at the end of their service they receive nothing. Apparently no appeal to be re-examined and passed fit is considered, as the Lords of the Treasury refuse, even after this lapse of time, to allow any cases to be re-opened.

Again, the apprenticeship problem will certainly have to be dealt with. Youths not out of their teens who have seen active service in France find that on returning to civil life they will be called upon to serve their masters for five years, just the same and at the same rates of pay, 6s. or 7s. a week—which of course goes nowhere these days. If their parents do not happen to have means, youths are naturally induced to sacrifice their ambition to become skilled craftsmen by taking up labourers' or similar work, to the great loss of the country, but to their own immediate benefit.

Then, immediately Parliament re-assembles important matters affecting our soldiers will call for adjustment, including the arbitrary disposal of the effects of fallen heroes. This is a matter which, while it means so little to the authorities, means so much to the relatives.

It is scarcely surprising that letters from pensioned policemen should reach the Bureau. One case in particular is worthy of mention. After twenty-five years' service an Inspector would have been entitled to a pension of forty-five shillings per week, but after serving twenty-two years he was certified unfit for further service and received a pension of only twenty-nine shillings per week, although he was partially incapacitated for life as the result of his duties. All through the period of increased cost of living not a penny has been added to the pension, and there are many even worse placed.

While only a mere tithe of the cases receiving our attention can be referred to on this page, each correspondent will in due course receive an answer, provided letters are plainly marked on the outside, "Parliamentary Bureau," and addressed, "Mr. Horatio Bottomley, M.P., JOHN BULL, 93, Long Acre, London, W.C."

MEAT TRUST AND BACON BOUNCE.

NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE SALT.

Not least of the profiteering stunts of the war has been the bacon bounce of the Meat Trust. It is like nothing which has previously been known outside a soap factory or a salt mine. On Major Astor's figures, up to the end of September last 478,000 tons of American bacon had been imported into this country on a contract at one time supposed to amount to at most 50,000 tons. It is not unreasonable to calculate that one-twentieth of the whole tonnage imported consisted of salt; that is to say, 25,916 tons of salt was imported by the British Government at a cost of about 1s. 3d a pound—a total sum of £2,352,720—in order to compensate the Meat Trust peckers for their alleged losses through war conditions. If they please, the pumpuritans may calculate what this has cost the people in waterworks beer to quench their awful thirst. The operations of the Meat Trust are of course all over the world. They trade in various names in various places; and while it is true that the American people have been rationing themselves so that large quantities of meat and provisions could be shipped to this country, the Meat Trust Packing Houses have raked in profits to the scale of moral enormity under the asseveration of patriotism. Mr. H. S. Cautley, the late Minister of Pig in the Government of Mr. Lloyd George, stated boldly that the Meat Trust was responsible for the refusal to allow any feeding stuffs for live stock to be imported into Britain; so that in the near future, unless a great change occurs in the situation, British stock-raisers will be entirely at the mercy of the Trust, and prices both for the grower and consumer completely regulated by it.

THE MANY COOKS AND THE BROTH.

Let's hope they won't make a "hash" of it!

THE WAR STORES SCANDAL.

OFFICIAL INCOMPETENCE THAT BREEDS JOBBERY.

Fancy appointing the Marquis of Salisbury Chairman of a Government Committee to arrange for the disposal of surplus Army stores to the value of £500,000,000! Is it any wonder that the whole business is in chaos and confusion? Obviously this important job calls for the services of a first-class business man. We are told that the Government are determined to get the best prices for surplus stores. What sort of a beginning has been made? In the early part of the war a large number of motor-cycle magnetos were bought from America for the Army Service Corps Mechanical Transport at about £7 apiece. The other day 2,000 of them, in practically new condition, were sold off at 25s. each. They were bought by a London firm who shortly afterwards offered them for sale at a little under £9, a price at which they were still cheap. Why should the taxpayers not have had the benefit of a fair sale of these valuable goods? Equally well authenticated is a report in regard to £5,000 worth of "inner tubes" for motor tyres, of which, although orders were given that they should be repaired and sold, no proper account appears to have been kept, so that but for the honesty of the men who had the handling of them, the whole lot might have "gone astray," and no one have been the wiser. We are credibly informed that no sound provision has yet been made for reception and storage, with the result that thousands of pounds' worth of valuable stuff is simply rusting or rotting away. One experienced official was so disgusted with the waste going on in all directions that he ventured to make strong representations on the subject to the Department responsible, at that time the Ministry of Reconstruction. But his suggestions were by no means cordially received, certain "proposals for improved organisation," which he had been at the pains of working out, being absolutely ignored. There is room for no other inference than that the higher officials are utterly indifferent to the wastage that is going on. Already we are threatened with a repetition of the worst scandals that followed the South African campaign.

A MUTINY AND ITS SEQUEL.

AMAZING AFFAIR AT A SPANISH PORT.

An astonishing report reaches us from Bilbao, Spain. Stripped to its bare outline, the story is that in September last one of His Majesty's Transports, with a mixed crew under British officers, put into the river entrance at Bilbao to await a home convoy. While the vessel was at her moorings, a quantity of spirits was smuggled aboard—embarked it is said from German boats—and the bulk of the crew became wobbly intoxicated. Maddened by drink, they did a good deal of damage to the ship, wrenched the compass from its box, broke into Government stores, and finally threatened the lives of the Captain and officers. In the course of time their drunken fury worked itself out, but in the meanwhile the Transport had missed its convoy. Next morning the Captain went ashore to report matters at the British Consulate, leaving instructions with his officers that in the event of any further insubordination on the part of the crew, they should if necessary use firearms to prevent a repetition of the previous day's events. Not long afterwards, a member of the crew, a Peruvian fireman, attempted to leave the ship with part of the booty which had fallen to the rioters, and a challenge from the quarter-deck nine times repeated having no effect, a shot was fired, wounding the rascal in the leg. Twenty-four hours later the Spanish authorities issued a warrant for the arrest of the two British officers who were held responsible for the shooting. As the vessel was in a Spanish harbour the authorities at Bilbao may have been within their rights, but our information is—and it reaches us in a form which it is not easy to disregard—that as recently as last month the two officers were still under arrest at Bilbao awaiting their trial on a charge which was already three months old. There may, of course, be something more behind this extraordinary occurrence than has yet appeared; but, on the face of it, the public are entitled to a reassuring statement from the British Consul at Bilbao, who can perhaps place the matter in a more favourable light. This is not the first time that the Spanish authorities have acted arbitrarily towards British seamen.

A SNARE FOR SUFFERERS.

REVEREND TOUT STILL ACTS AS DECOY DUCK.

The Rev. Silas Jones, of Penmaen, Cole n, is still advertising that he is anxious to help sufferers from chronic bronchitis and a Cure to be cured, all "free o charge." A poor invalid, yearning for ease and aid, asks if there is "any dodge" in the expensive advertis of the Rev. Silas. As we have often explained—there is. Silas is a tout: what he supplies "free of charge" is the address of a quack, Richard Haynel, of German extraction, who does nothing free, but wants as big a fee as he can get. We do not know the colour of the clerical garb covering the Rev. Silas Jones, but his church, or little Bethel, has no reason to be proud of him.

BRETT ON ANOTHER BOUNCE.

"CASH CHEMIST" AS GROSS PROFITEER.

Brett, the "Cash Chemist," of 173, Bradford Road, Huddersfield, whose impudent "Perfect Plug" tobacco fraud we have already exposed, has a way with his customers in charging them. As a man on the make-haste-to-be-rich he seems to be in the category as an expert. Again we will let one of our readers speak for himself: "My wife purchased a tin of 'Cow-and-Gate' milk, in the shop of Mr. Brett on January 2nd, for which he charged 3s. 'Cow-and-Gate' milk is sold everywhere else at 2s. 8d., and after making inquiries at other chemists, I went to Mr. Brett and asked him whether he had made a mistake or not. 'I charge 3s.,' he said. I then demanded a receipt, which he immediately wrote out and gave to me." Brett profiteers, evidently, to the top of his opportunity. His conscience, what there is of it, is apparently as elastic as rubber. But then a man who has the impudence to sell an odious concoction of dried raspberry leaves as "smoking mixture" can hardly be expected to have many scruples in trading off on the public the rest of his stock. Mr. Brett has already had a nasty fall over the tobacco business—being heavily fined after our exposure; next time he will come a cropper.

HOSPITALITY TURNED DOWN.

Y.M.C.A. SCHEME THAT WENT WRONG.

Early in the winter the Hospitality League of the Y.M.C.A. appealed to ladies and gentlemen to open their houses at Christmas time to Overseas men on leave at that season. There was a ready response to that, and there is no doubt this flourished prospect of hospitality was a fine advertisement for the Y.M.C.A. and its activities. But the scheme appears to have fallen through. One lady, who offered a home for four days to two men, cheerfully laid in a good stock of eatables and drinkables, hoping that her guests would arrive with healthy appetites. But they never came at all. Instead, she got a circular-letter from the Hospitality League, addressed to "Dear Sir or Madam," explaining that it was sent out in large numbers, to tell her that it was "impossible to carry out the scheme in its entirety." Three reasons were given:—The War Office had refused railway facilities; a large number of Overseas men were drafted for return to their homeland; and, "many have had gone on leave before arrangements could be made to cater for them." Now the lady's home is within a few miles of London, and "railway facilities" could not apply in her case. As regards the many boys who went on leave without receiving an invitation, that, surely, indicates that the Hospitality League failed to keep in touch with them. As a whole, it is quite evident that a much-trumpeted scheme was permitted to fizzle out, and, if Overseas men looked for hospitality and found it not, they must not blame the English men and women whose homes were ready and open for their welcome. The Y.M.C.A. failed to come.

WHITEWASHED AND DECORATED.

DISGRACEFUL SEQUEL TO THE WICKED WOMAN OF WALES.

TWO years ago, almost to the day, we said what the rest of the Press was afraid to say, and denounced, under the title of "The Wicked Woman of Wales," the conduct of those who had sought to ruin the military career of a young soldier, Lieut. Barrett. There have been many scandals during the war—and there are scores still awaiting publicity. But of all the discreditable doings which have so far come to our notice the despicable attempt to "break" this youth was the most damnable and discreditable. But anger and spite might have been ever so bitter and vile; they could have availed nothing without influence in high quarters. And it was this influence which, carried to the very inner sanctuary of the War Office, would, but for the intervention of Parliament, have resulted in a cruel injustice to a young and gallant officer.

Two Guilty Men.

It will be recalled that after Barrett had been so scandalously treated that fine Englishman, the late Sir Arthur Markham, took up his case, and an official Inquiry was held, following the passing of a special Act of Parliament to enable civilian witnesses to be called at a Court Martial. Well, it was found after an exhaustive investigation—a regular trial with Counsel and witnesses, cross-examination, and speeches and all the rest of it—that two men, men of high positions, had acted most irregularly. Those two men were Lieut.-Gen. Sir J. S. Cowans, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., Quartermaster-General, and Lieut.-Col. H. Delme-Radcliffe. They were condemned by the Court; their conduct was reviewed and censured. JOHN BULL, knowing all the facts, aroused intense public indignation by publishing them—and, voicing national sentiment, called upon the King to relieve these officers of their commissions.

But, as usual, the Government of the day flouted public opinion. Just as Sir W. Robbie, Lord Hardinge and Mr. Chamberlain, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, held responsible for the horrors of the Mesopotamia campaign, have all been whitewashed and promoted or decorated, so it has pleased the authorities, after two years of indecent silence, to place the name of one of the two soldiers, who were guilty of such dereliction of duty, in the Honours List—Honours List, forsooth! Lt.-Gen. Sir John Cowans, who grossly misused his position to the despite of that young soldier, has been gazetted a full general. Was there ever such cant and humbug? Of course it will be said that Cowans rendered splendid service since these scandalous revelations of January, 1917. But do you think that if he had not been a man with Court and Society influence behind him he would have been allowed to brazen out the findings of the Military Court of Inquiry, presided over by Mr. Justice Atkin? Of course not!

Hectic Love-Making.

Don't forget this: that Sir John Cowans was particularly guilty. He dared to interfere in a case of which he knew nothing, just because a Society woman, who was thus able to pull the strings, pursued the young officer because he did not want to be taught "really beautiful poetry" in "my flower boudoir." As he wrote in answer to the hectic love-making:—

> I have always tried to live an honest and upright life, and I have so far succeeded, though I have been a common Tommy. My heart is in my work, and I want to make a name for myself. I don't want to understand poetry. I only want to live a good life and serve my King.

The cruel attempts to injure this Sergeant turned Lieutenant were made effective only by the action of Cowans and Delme-Radcliffe. The latter was found guilty of showing "a want of consideration and humanity" for one of his junior officers. Could there be a graver charge, or one on the face of it rendering an officer more unfit for command and unworthy of honours? Let this be said—that Delme-Radcliffe within a few days of the finding of the Army Court of Inquiry vacated his command of the battalion of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in which this young lieutenant was serving when such harsh and unconscionable methods were employed to make him pay for having scorned the overtures of a woman of Society. But Cowans was not to be dislodged. He remained in his position of Quartermaster-General, and now he has been given full rank. The moral of it all is that we shall never get a high standard in public life, whether in politics or in the Army, while such scandals as that of "The Wicked Woman of Wales" are possible, and those responsible, not only go unpunished, but in due time are whitewashed by promotion and decoration.

What the New Army Has Shown.

If there is one thing that this war has shown, it is that the country is in no sense dependent upon the Old Army "gang" for the qualities that make efficient generals. Many a man of fine and honourable civilian record has by his courage and his judgment won his way to high rank. The old idea that the Army should be a close preserve for Society "darlings" has gone, we hope never to return. At the same time a new standard of conduct should be set up. We are not of those who would pursue any man for a single breach of regulations or would fail to set efficient service against a temporary lapse. But when men of authority and exalted rank are found guilty of irregularities which strike at the root of confidence and efficiency, an example should be made of them in the true interests of the Army. That is why we deplore this sequel to "The Wicked Woman of Wales."

FLOATING HELLS.

THE OPEN BERTHS IN BOATS TO AUSTRALIA.

We mentioned a week or two ago the high rates for third-class accommodation to Australia being demanded of the wives of Anzac soldiers. And we said that often third-class meant an "open berth." We are now able to describe what an "open berth" means. It means that hundreds of women and children are packed in bunks round the ship's hold, with their "dining-room" tables and forms in the middle. It means that in the prevalent rough weather either the waves dash down the open hatches, or the poor things spend all their time in an airless tarpaulin-covered cavern. It means indescribable noise, dirt and confusion always going on round mothers with children and women about to have children. It means births taking place without the aid of a skilled midwife in the cramped sick-bay where other babies are dying. It means shocking food—mainly army biscuits and stew and tea made in the same dishes, with the grease swimming on top. It means, *it means Hell!* And for the privilege of enduring these tortures of the damned some of the passengers have paid as much as £30. When you can imagine all this happening in a stale-smelling hold which heaves and tosses, bucks children off their forms, dashes the plate of stew or the cup of tea into your face or your lap, and ends by causing unpremeditated and unattended sea-sickness all round you; when finally you remember that there is no sort of privacy for anybody, and that the hold swarms with vermin, you can cast up how much the wives of Anzac soldiers have been robbed. *Hun prisoners of war being repatriated are treated in a very different way.*

A RESURRECTED ROGUE.

A WARNING TO FOOTBALL PUNTERS.

A couple of football enthusiasts at Willesden, wanting to back their fancies, opened an account with the *Football Winner*, a privately circulated journal with an office, or at least an address, at 160b, Fleet Street, E.C. For several weeks the luck was against them. Then fortune smiled, and in a single week the friends won £1 9s. 6d. As the money did not come to hand the punters sensibly resolved to go and fetch it, but although they called at 160b, Fleet Street, five times in one day, they could not make anyone hear. Finally, they learned from a neighbouring office that "the gentleman who called next door" had another place of business at 27, Chancery Lane, W.C. On visiting this establishment they found the door labelled "Rendall's Advertising Service." After some delay it was opened by a young lady who explained, as though quite accustomed to such inquiries, that all moneys had been posted to winners the previous day. It was not, however, until some time later that a cheque was received, and then for about half only of the amount owing. As long as "the Editor" was winning, he had been glad to receive bets of any size, but now that the luck had turned a regulation was discovered ruling out "investments" of less than 2s. per match. Rendall is an old hand at this sort of game. In October, 1916, we thoroughly exposed his methods and were served in consequence with a writ for libel, but before the case could come on for hearing Rendall thought it prudent to withdraw from the proceedings, and of course, we obtained judgment with costs. We were under the impression that Rendall had gone into the Army; if so, he has been discharged too soon

OUR MR. JERRY ON THE JOB.

PROFITEERING "BETTER LATE THAN NEVER."

It has always been said of the building trade that it is the first to feel a pinch and the last to feel a push, or words to that effect. The war over, the restrictions removed, and thousands of people clamouring for somewhere to live, the jerrybuilder is again on the job. An expert official Committee estimate that 400,000 new houses are needed to put the country in a pre-war position, but local authorities have in hand schemes for building only 200,000. What the Government will do in the national interest is problematical—so that if Mr. Jerry gets to work quickly, with nobody troubling to keep a sharp eye on him, he has a chance of a lifetime. The building trade had no opportunity of profiteering in the war; in fact it was turned down, and mercilessly jumped on. Now, right here, Jerry is himself again; and presently he will be selling lovely homes for the people all-in-a-row like ripe cherries at 2d. a pound. "Why pay rent?" Borrow £100 from a Building Society, pay the balance of the purchase money in 199 years or thereabouts, plus 5½ per cent., and the happy home is yours; at least it would be yours if you weren't dead and it hadn't tumbled down on account of the mortar dropping out and the weather oozing in. It is true that local authorities nowadays keep the jerrybuilder in hand somewhat; probably rather more than he likes. But after he has observed the byelaws as to drains and fire, and dodged the ancient lights, he can still do as many astonishing feats with a refuse tip, a load or two of bricks, a bit of mill mortar, and a handful of two or granite chips as little Willy with his box of wood blocks to play with.

PITY THE BRAVE!

SCANDALOUS TREATMENT OF ARMY HORSES.

We are determined to do all that in us lies to secure proper treatment for worn-out Army horses. In a recent issue we published the spirited protest of a South African soldier who had seen scores of these four-footed heroes compelled to "face the horrors of a French slaughter-house." Naturally the dissemination of the facts has evoked a chorus of protest, and surprise is freely expressed that no effective action should have been taken by the R.S.P.C.A. The only statement so far forthcoming from the Association is from Mr. J. Lang, Secretary of the Manchester Branch, who states, in reply to a correspondent who drew his attention to our article, that "the whole thing is incredible." We need only say that our original informant was a man of the highest credentials, whose experiences with the Cape Auxiliary Horse Transport have furnished him with painful knowledge. The account we gave is confirmed by other correspondents. "Many Army horses have a worse fate in store," writes one indignant reader with access to special information. "They may be sold not only to slavery in France, or in the East—a veritable hell—but most probably vivisection at the end. The R.S.P.C.A. seems to do nothing, especially in the matter of vivisection." It will be generally agreed that horses and dogs are the last animals that should be subjected to such treatment, and especially horses that have "done their bit" in the war. The possibility of such a scandal revolts every human instinct. These horrors must cease.

PHILANTHROPY AND BUSINESS.

DOUBTFUL SCHEMES FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS.

The Ministry of Pensions should exercise the utmost caution before recommending outside schemes for the assistance of disabled men. A doubtful concern which, nevertheless, has earned a measure of official approval is the British Costumiers Association, Limited, for Discharged Men of H.M. Forces—carrying on at Barbican House, E.C., a tailoring business, said to be "approved by and co-operating with the Ministry of Pensions." The "Committee" includes the names of Sir John McCall, Agent-General for Tasmania, and Lord Foley of the Royal Air Force. But the actual control is purely commercial, the British Costumiers Association, Ltd., having been incorporated in December, 1918, by Mr. Augo Brockdorff, described as a Norwegian, and Mr. Edwin James Stuttle, of 10, Lingwood Road, Clacton. There is reason to believe that the Pensions Ministry are already regretting the encouragement given to Mr. Stuttle, this gentleman being evidently amongst those troublesome people who, if "given an inch" will "take an ell." The scheme to which, after some hesitation, the approval of the Ministry was given, was one to "train and employ discharged and disabled soldiers in the ladies' costume and allied trades." Having scrap d an acquaintance with Major Robert Mitchell, Director of Training under the Ministry of Pensions, Mr. Stuttle evidently intends to exploit it for all it is worth, and in at least one case Major Mitchell has had to take him severely to task for the unauthorised use of his name. Having formed a company—the Allied Commercial Trust, Limited—for developing certain lines of industry ranging from chocolates to aeroplanes, Mr. Stuttle had the impudence to state that "the project would be in co-operation with Major Mitchell of the Ministry of Pensions," whereas it now appears the Director of Training had never heard of the project, the use of his name being entirely unauthorised. We profoundly mistrust such schemes pretending to combine philanthropy and business. In most instances they are doomed to collapse from being overweighted at the business end.

CUSTARD

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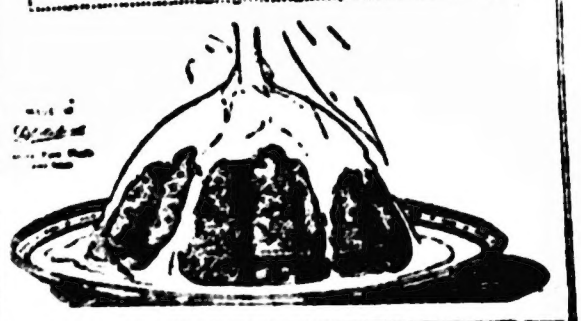

IN THE BARBER'S CHAIR.

MR. SPEAKER!

Goo' mornin', sir. . . . No, sir, I ain't on strike and don't intend. I'm me own master and I 'aven't got no assistants jest now, so I don't exactly see wot sorter grievance I could work up to strike on. True, I can't get enough beer, and wot I do get I can't get w'en I wants it most. But thet complaint ain't peculiar to barbers. It's a national grievance. The only sorter strikin' I feel inclined to do at present is to strike Lord D'Abernon on the nose if I git 'arf a chance. But wot kin I do for you, sir? . . . *Beard trimmin'?* Cert'ny, sir. Sot 'ere, if you don't mind. Mr. Speaker to the chair, ha-ha! I 'ope you'll excuse me, sir, but I must 'ave my little joke. Thank 'evvin, I've never yet failed to get that. And it is a comical thing, w'en you come to think of it. The Speaker takes the Barber's chair, he does . . . *Not so comical as if the Barber took the Speaker's Chair?* Quite right, sir. That would be a turn out—or would end in one, I dessay, fur me! But I wonder w'ether you've ever thought of the amusin' diff'rence between you an' me, sir? . . . Well, sir, my buzness is to take people's 'air orf, and yores is to see that people keep their 'air on. But you'll 'ave a bit of a job to do that w'en the new 'Ouse o' Commons meets, I'm thinkin'. . . . *You think not, sir?* . . . I see, sir—becos the most rarely elements of the larst 'Ouse o' Commons 'as been eliminated at the polls. Eliminated is right, sir. But there's always a chance that the Irish Members will try to spring a surprise on you, ain't there, sir? . . . *Speakers are supposed to be impervious to surprise?* I s'pose they are. But even Speakers is only yewmun, ain't they, sir? And I dessay you're lookin' forward to the new Session with a good deal of interest? . . . . Ah, I thought you were, sir. You'll see a few of the old faces wot you 'avent seen fur years. There'll be the Member fur South 'Ackney settin' in the corner seat below the gangway, and . . . Oh, *you ain't shore 'e'll be settin' there this time?* 'Ow's thet, sir? . . . Oh, *you've 'card a rumour.* I see. Well, I won't press you, sir, but you don't think 'e's likely to lead the Opposition, do you? . . . I beg pawdon? *You won't set 'ere to 'ear Mr. Bottomley insulted?* I'm very sorry, sir. I never meant to insult 'im. . . . *You know Mr. Bottomley too well to think 'e would oppose fur the sake of opposin'?* I'm glad to 'ear you say so, sir. I don't think 'e's thet sort, meself . . . *Then w'y did I say so?* I never said so—leastways, not as I'm aware of. . . . Oh, *I suggested it,* did I? Well, I'm very sorry—thet's orl. I never meant to. And look 'ere, Mr. Speaker, you'll excuse me, but *you* ain't the only one wot won't set an 'ear Mr. Bottomley disparaged. I know Bottomley. I've shaved 'im many a time. And thet's the way to git to know a man—shave 'im! Is that just about 'ow you like it, sir not too much of a point? . . . Thank you, sir. I'm sorry to 'ear you're thinkin' of givin' up the Speakership arfter this comin' session. You'll be missed in the 'Ouse, sir, for I s'pose you'll be goin' up to the Other Place, as they calls it. Well, you'll 'ave 'ad a pritty long term, sir, an' presided over some fateful debates. It'll be somethink fur you to say in years to come that you was Speaker of the 'Ouse during the Great Wore. One thing I dessay you're sorry for, thet there wasn't no lady reporters to the 'Ouse at the larst election. I know I am—fur certain reasons. I should 'ave like to have seen Christabel catchin' the Speaker's eye, and 'ave 'eard 'ow you would 'ave called on 'er for 'er maiden speech. It would 'ave been maidan in more ways than one, wouldn't it, sir? Ha-ha! . . . There you are, sir. I think thet's fixed you up a treat. 'Ope I shell be seein' you in 'ere more orfen as soon as Parliament meets, sir. Thank you, sir. Much obliged. Goo'-day, sir . . .

HOW I STOPP

Stand On Me, Tommy!—What Tom

By THE

PRIOR to my re-election to the House of Commons I was in the habit, unknown to the general public, of taking an active part, behind the scenes, in various matters of public concern—interviewing Ministers and heads of Departments, drawing their attention to a variety of grievances and scandals brought before me in my Editorial capacity—and in a variety of other ways. Since the election, however, I have realised more than ever the responsibility which rests upon my shoulders, and I propose to disclose two matters of outstanding interest in connection with which I have played a prominent part during the past few weeks. And then I will leave the public to decide how far within the scope of possibility, prior to the meeting of Parliament, I have justified the remarkable expression of confidence given me at the Poll. In what I am about to reveal, I must, of necessity, omit certain links in the story. First of all, some of the letters which have passed between the Government and myself have been of a private and confidential character, and cannot, without the consent of the Prime Minister, be disclosed. In the same way, there are considerations of public interest which compel me for the moment to refrain from drawing the veil aside from certain incidents, upon which, however, light may be thrown when Parliament meets. In ordinary circumstances, I might have been content—as has been my custom for a long time past—to remain in the background and allow Ministers and others to take all the credit for things which have been directly due to my own activities; but I am now back in Parliament, and am in grim earnest—and I think the time has arrived when I should let the public know the extent to which I am doing my best to justify my title of the "Unofficial Prime Minister."

The Sinn Feiners.

I will begin with this matter. There have recently been paragraphs in the papers—culminating in a special article in the *Times*—pointing out that, under present Parliamentary precedent, there is nothing to prevent the whole of the Sinn Fein members coming over from Ireland and kicking up a rare row in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords before there is any obligation upon them to take the Oath of Allegiance—and, generally, to bring the British Parliament into disrepute. Well, it was my knowledge of Parliamentary practice which led to this discovery. I remembered that at the sitting of a new Parliament, before members are sworn, they are first summoned to the House of Lords, where they are directed to return to their own House and elect a Speaker and then to submit his name for Royal approval. They then meet again in the Commons, unsworn, without a Chairman or any other officer with power to maintain order, and proceed to the election of Speaker. It will, therefore, be seen that the Sinn Feiners, without being called upon to subscribe the Oath of Allegiance, could attend in force, create a scene in the House of Lords, and subsequently reduce the proceedings in the Commons to a farce, by proposing one after the other of their own number as Speaker, making speeches in support of the nomination, and dividing the House. I was quite certain that the authorities had not realised this grave situation, and, accordingly, on the 30th December last, I addressed a private and confidential letter to the Prime Minister on the subject. As I have already indicated, I am not at liberty to reproduce this communication—which was delivered by hand at 10, Downing Street. I am, however, at liberty to say that on the afternoon of that day Mr. Lowther, the ex-Speaker, did me the honour of calling upon me—when I went fully into the matter, and ultimately satisfied him that my view was correct. He was much concerned at the outlook, and left me with the understanding that he would at once consult the Prime Minister in regard to it. This I know he did, and Mr. Lloyd George has since thanked me for putting the Government on its guard—with the result that, as I am given to understand, arrangements are being made to deal with the threatened situation, should it arise. These arrangements I have had an opportunity of discussing with the Prime Minister, but I am not free to say more than this: if it was ever the intention of the Sinn Feiners—as I had reason to believe was the case—to avail themselves of this unique opportunity of bringing the British Parliament into ridicule and discredit, they are likely to find that they have been forestalled. Now, isn't it somewhat amazing that, in all the Press references to the matter—of which nothing would ever have been heard but for me—my name has never been mentioned—that learned constitutional writers and others have taken to themselves all the credit for the discovery? However, let that pass.

The Soldiers' Trouble.

And now I will come to a much more serious matter—less serious, perhaps, at the time of writing than it has been, but, for aught I know, likely to re assume the gravest aspect before these lines are read; although I am sincerely hopeful that such may not be the case. I refer to the unrest and disaffection amongst the soldiers on the subject of Demobilisation. In this matter, I do not hesitate to say that although, again, my name has been kept carefully out of the papers, I have been the prime mover ever since the trouble came to a climax in the revolt at Folkestone on Saturday, January 4th—when some twelve thousand men whose leave had expired refused to return to France. On that day, I received the following telegram:

> The soldiers at Folkestone urgently request your presence by 12 noon at Town Hall Folkestone—Sgt. Stanley for Delegates.

It was, however, quite impossible for me to comply with this request, but on the Monday morning, January 6th, a deputation of the men's representatives waited upon me, as the result of a Resolution unanimously passed at Folkestone, to seek my intervention with the Government. On the same day a paragraph appeared in the Press, stating that a representation had been made to the Prime Minister from influential City circles, urging him to place the whole question of Demobilisation in my hands. On seeing this announcement I at once communicated with Mr. Lloyd George, but as my letter was marked "Private and Confidential" I am not at liberty to print it here. I had scarcely, however, despatched it before the deputation I have referred to called upon me. We went fully into the whole matter, and at the close of the interview I sent the following letter to the Prime Minister:

> Following my letter of this morning, I have just had a most important interview with a deputation consisting of four non-commissioned officers, who were authorised by the whole of the Folkestone men to wait upon me and explain their grievances.
>
> I think I understand the exact present position, but I foresee the danger of another outbreak at the end of the week—whilst I also know something about the state of affairs in France, and how it may be accentuated unless very wise counsels prevail during this week.
>
> These men tell me that the disaffected soldiers have resolved to act on my advice, and the deputation is returning to me at 10.30 to-morrow morning for a further conference.
>
> The points seem to be:
>
> (1) That all Mons Star men should be automatically demobilised, whether they have berths waiting for them or not;
>
> (2) That the 1915 men and other Volunteers should come next—subject to having work to go to, but not necessarily the jobs that they were in when they joined up;
>
> (3) That, after that, should come the "41" men;
>
> (4)—and on *this* they are *very strong*—That demobilisation of the Home Forces should not take precedence of the men overseas.
>
> They also want permission to hold a meeting towards the end of this week—before the special seven days' leave expires—and for me to attend it; and generally, they seem to place sufficient confidence in me as to fill me with a very strong sense of responsibility.
>
> What can I do—and what am I to say to them when they come again to-morrow morning?
>
> My hands are extremely full, but, as I said this morning, I am at your service in any way which will help to avoid what may easily develop into the greatest of all the tragedies of the war.
>
> I found these chaps most reasonable and law-abiding in disposition, and in no way lacking in a sense of the gravity of their

...PED A MUTINY.

...mm... Demands—More Trouble Brewing.

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task in advising their fellow-soldiers, and properly and sympathetically handled I am certain the crisis should be overcome.

After that, however, must come the big problem of Demobilisation—to be dealt with as a whole.

That was on Tuesday, January 7th. Then came a request that I should proceed to Downing Street. There I met Mr. Lloyd George, Sir Eric Geddes, and General Sir Henry Wilson, Chief of Staff. I found the Prime Minister very much concerned at the turn events were taking, and I confess that I sympathised very deeply with him in being confronted, immediately on his return from a few days' much-needed rest, by this new and extremely serious problem. We discussed the matter from all points of view, and I was delighted to observe that Mr. Lloyd George was in no way overruled by what I would describe as the conventional War Office attitude; whilst it was equally clear that Sir Eric Geddes was bound by no red tape restriction in his efforts to grapple with the crisis. After a long discussion I left Downing Street, satisfied that I had succeeded in impressing the view of the soldiers upon the mind of Mr. Lloyd George, and that substantial concessions were to be made to the demands of the men. And I was gratified to see from the next morning's papers that such was the case.

The Soldiers' Demands.

The next step was a further conference with the soldiers' delegates, who, as intimated in my letter to the Prime Minister, had in the meantime arranged with me to consult representatives from all parts of the country. And here I had better set out a letter to the Prime Minister which was written on the 9th instant:—

> I yesterday had another interview with the Folkestone delegates and went fully into the scheme which (as, I presume, the result of our mutual deliberations on Tuesday) was propounded in yesterday morning's papers. They arranged to consult representatives from various other parts of the country and to let me have their views as to what would be a satisfactory Demobilisation arrangement.
>
> I have now received a Memorandum—of which I enclose you a copy—and upon most points of which I am bound to say that I am in entire agreement.
>
> I am sure you will not mind my saying that I felt a little handicapped at Downing Street the other evening by the presence of at least one individual with whose policy in this matter I entirely disagree, and which policy, I gather from your communication to the Troops in to-day's papers, you have also to a large extent overridden.
>
> I have only to add that if there is any way in which I can help further I am at your service, and in the meantime it is a source of satisfaction to me to know that I have been the means so far of smoothing over a very delicate and dangerous situation.

And this is the Memorandum which was handed me, as representing the "Demands of All Branches of the Services":—

1. All men on leave in England from overseas who are in possession of a contract to be demobilised immediately without returning overseas.
2. Demobilisation according to length of service.
3. Demobilisation to be in equal numbers of home and overseas men of each year.
4. No discrimination in favour of married men.
5. Discrimination (within the same year) in favour of men with jobs to go to, irrespective of whether they held those jobs in 1914 or not.
6. Maintenance for men without jobs to be furnished at the standard rates for the jobs which they followed before enlistment.
7. All men over 41 to be automatically discharged at once.
8. In order to utilise to the full all the available transport for demobilisation purposes, leave should only be granted in exceptional cases.
9. Demobilisation to take place at depôt nearest the man's home.
10. Army of Occupation pay to be at Colonial rates.
11. Men in the Army to be given the right to appoint a Standing Committee to act as advisers to the War Office on service matters affecting the welfare of the men (*e.g.*, demobilisation, pay, discipline, victualling, etc. These men to be freely elected by the men.

I understand, however, that this letter did not reach Downing Street until after the Prime Minister had started for France. I hope it has been sent to him. Candidly, I have no faith in the War Office—unless, indeed, the advent of Mr. Churchill means a new order of things. And, strong man as Sir Eric Geddes is, I fancy that without the support of the Prime Minister he will find the Decorated Dug-Outs in the way of any statesmanlike solution of what is undoubtedly a grave and threatening problem.

More Trouble Brewing?

I am very much afraid, however, that the trouble is not yet over. The men are clearly dissatisfied with the concessions so far granted, as will be gathered from the following letter, which I have received from Sergt. Stanhope, who introduced the Folkestone deputation to me, and now describes himself as "Chairman of the Twelve Representatives of the Whole British Army":—

> I am now receiving a numerous lot of letters from men who were at Folkestone and who are bitterly complaining of their treatment, and are not receiving the treatment which was accorded to them by General Dallas, Sir Woolcombe and Mr. Longton, also General Webber. I am afraid there is going to be very serious trouble unless something is done to remedy the nonsense which the War Office is dabbling in. Promises were made by the high officials, and yet when complying with the instructions given they are immediately turned down by the Records. The men are complaining that the War Office have instructed the Records to return the men to the front again. It is the men's wish that the 11 Demands sent to you should be placed before the Prime Minister, and not permit the War Office Staff to have a say in the matter at all. One point they wish you to strictly emphasise is No. 11. The men consider it is the duty of the Prime Minister to interview their selected men, who though still in uniform, are the ones who put the Prime Minister in power. The men trust you will take the matter up for them. The Army and the boys have great faith in you and are ever your loyal supporters.

Such, then, is the situation as I write. It is a difficult and anxious one.

Stand On Me, Tommy!

But I have such unbounded faith in the patriotism and the common-sense of Tommy that I have no serious misgiving as to an ultimate adjustment of matters. It is not his fault that misunderstanding has arisen. You cannot blame him, or anyone else, for reading the Armistice as though it were a Peace Treaty. If only the politicians had kept out of the business and left it to Foch and Haig we know what would have happened. "Unconditional Surrender" would have been their only answer, and then the war *would* have been over. As things are, the war is *not* over—and however the business has been bungled, I want Tommy always to bear that fact in mind. Indeed, the Prime Minister, with an unconscious irony, tells us that the German Army is still intact, and, not only that, but "strong." Of course that is all very regrettable, and some day I shall have a few questions to put to Ministers on the subject. But we must deal with the present; and for the sake of all they have suffered and endured—all they have fought for, bled for, and died for—I want my Khaki friends to be patient, yet a little longer—and to trust to me. *I'll* see that they are not kept away from their homes and families a day longer than is absolutely necessary. Let them refrain from any rash act—even from any rash words. They have fought gloriously; and in these days of waiting—when, as Mr. Churchill says, the world is at a standstill—I ask them to continue as a shining light and example to all the world. I confess that I am solicitous for the good name of the British Army—which, after all, is but another name for all that is best of the British people. Some of the suggested terms of demobilisation I am not keen upon—such, for instance, as No Preference for the Married Men—but all that is matter for discussion. What I want to implore the soldiers to do is to "Stand at ease," and believe they are not without friends. In other words, Stand on me, Tommy!

"TOMMY AND JACK."

Dealing also with the Discharged Sailor and Soldier and their Dependents.

OUR PLEDGE.—"No case of hardship or injustice, no instance of beggarly treatment or mean cheeseparing, shall go unchallenged and unremedied."—*Horatio Bottomley*, 19th August, 1916.

"TOMMY."

An Official Joke?:—From Regimental Orders, 3rd Oxford and Bucks L.I.: "It has been decided that until general demobilisation is ordered no one need be demobilised unless they wish." A laughable order, apparently the production of some office boy.

Harassing the Old 'Uns:—Privates of the Labour Corps are in some places abominably treated—which is bad, having regard to the present temper of the troops. We give the Irish Command the tip that it would be well if some "brass hats" were sent to investigate affairs at the Labour Centres over there, particularly at Newtownards.

The Men we Mean:—We are sorry that a few men have misconstrued a recent paragraph. Our criticism was aimed at the thoroughly fit "soldiers" who, through influence or otherwise, got into departmental corps to escape trench service, and afterwards dodged the comb when the Mons and other men, including the wounded, were forced into these units.

Kicked Out:—The R.N.V.R. Officers have at last been granted gratuities. What about the army officers who served on the West Coast of Africa and have been kicked out—many of them owing to climatic disease—on small pensions without an extra penny added?

"Fed Up":—The German prisoners in France are allowed a loaf between each two men per day. Men of the Anti-Aircraft, and others attached to General Headquarters, get only a slice of bread for breakfast and one for tea. Happy Huns!

Shabby Treatment:—Canadian Cadets are returning home for discharge, and will be previously granted commissions. Our cadets are being sent back to their units and their original ranks without anything—not even their large outlay for kit being refunded.

Unhappy Dentists:—The fifty men employed at the army dental workshop at Birmingham are very unhappy. We might apply the terms "sweated labour" and "slave driving" to their conditions. We trust that this hint will be sufficient for the Commandant.

"JACK."

Another Committee!:—Yet another Committee to enquire into the pay and prospect of the lower deck! It is only a few weeks since the last concessions were issued as a result of the Inquiry under Admiral Hyde Parker, and now Sir Thomas Jerram is going over the same ground in the same way, with the sole difference that elected lower deck representatives will join the Committee at each port "in an advisory capacity."

"Too Much Service":—That means, of course that so far as membership of the Committee is concerned the lower deck men will be non-existent. But the biggest blunder the Admiralty make is to treat this as a strictly "Service" matter. There is no excuse for putting an admiral at the head of such a Committee, for the questions at issue are almost entirely economic. If the Admiralty wanted an impartial Inquiry they would have put a labour M.P. at the head of it. As is it, everything will be overshadowed by "Service" and prejudices of senior officers.

A Specimen Grievance:—The Admiral will find that at the Harwich Base, after the Armistice, volunteers were called for to sweep for mines, the terms being extra money, ten days' leave, and no Sunday work, and no sweeping in bad weather. The men got the leave, but most of the remainder of the terms has been blotted out.

About Pay:—At the same base the crews of the paddle minesweepers are paid fortnightly, but those of the other flotillas are paid on the first Friday of the month, which sometimes means that they have to wait five weeks for their wages, thus entailing hardship in Jack's home.

Pick-Pocketing the Pensioner:—Urgent representations are being addressed to the Admiralty against the proposal to rob naval pensioners of part of their war gratuity. This is small enough at the best, in all conscience, but if the authorities have availed themselves of the services of a pensioner they claim the right to cut down the rate of his monthly bonus by a half! It is preposterous to attempt to treat in this way men who have done their bit after earning the right to rest and retirement, and the Admiralty will have to think again.

"THE SILVER BADGERS."

Secretaries of discharged sailors' and soldiers' organisations, in sending cases of injustice or official information, should mark their envelopes "Silver Badgers."

A Family Affair:—Five Silver Badgers employed on the Police staff of the National Aircraft Factory at Waddon received a week's notice to terminate their engagements. The only men retained are Metropolitan Police pensioners. The boss, by the way, is an ex-Inspector of the Mets., with a fat pension.

We Did It:—A discharged man with a badge applied to the West Ham War Pensions Committee for an award of £25 from the King's Fund to enable him to commence a hawker's business. He got an official reply to the effect that he could not receive the grant until he produced a hawker's licence. The poor fellow had not the money, so we supplied it, and shall see that the grant is made.

Niggers First, Please!:—A Hussar, who was in civil life a merchant seaman, applied to his previous employers for reinstatement, with the result that he received the following letter: "We are afraid we cannot help you by offering you a berth, as at the present time we are carrying coloured crews, signed on in the West Indies." This from the firm of Scrutton, Sons and Coy., 16, Fenchurch Avenue. What about the All-white British Mercantile Marine?

Unpatriotic Railway Companies:—Why are so many of our Railway Companies down on the men who voluntarily enlisted and did not wait for the heavy hand of conscription? Here we have another instance. An ex-Guardsman asked to be reinstated in the service of the G.W.R., but was turned away with the official remark that only men who "temporarily left the service" are to be taken back. It is hard to be penalised for patriotism.

An Advertisement:—The *Daily Telegraph* recently published the following advertisement:—"Assistant Under-Secretary for War Pensions Committee, Bethnal Green. Good writing; experience; not under 25 years of age. Salary £2. Apply," etc. Were there no starving Badgers who could take up the job?

And Another:—Leicester War Pensions Committee:—"Wanted, Lady Clerk, clear handwriting essential; must also have knowledge of card index system, registration and statistical work; commencing salary £2 7s. 6d. per week. Also Junior Lady typist, experienced, commencing salary 25s. per week." Where are the starving badgers?

"THE GREATEST OF THESE—"

(Registered under the Act of 1916 as "The John Bull War Sufferers' Fund.")

This fund affords immediate relief to the dependants of soldiers and sailors stranded for want of money. Every farthing subscribed goes to some deserving person—we gladly defray all expenses.

Among the numerous cases we assisted during the week were the following:—

Old Soldier in Distress:—We paid the cost of a hawker's licence for an old soldier, who had no other means of existence. He served through the Boer War, has had considerable trouble since, having lost his wife, and is now completely alone, but anxious to earn his living.

Handicapped:—An ex-soldier is suffering from epilepsy, which necessitates frequent cessation from work, and consequent financial distress. He is under the doctor's care, the cost of which cannot be met from his pension, which is barely sufficient to feed and house him.

A Pitiful Case:—With a wife and family to support and himself under the doctor, a penniless ex-soldier who has exhausted his gratuity was in parlous plight. The rent had not been paid for weeks, and there was great shortage of food in the house, when the appeal reached us.

A Friendless Widow:—Having worked hard since her husband fell in the war, a poor woman has now to give up owing to failing health. She has a young child, and the anxiety of providing for it during her illness caused her to seek our assistance.

A Blind Orphan:—A widow, with a family of young children, asked us to provide a pair of boots for her little blind boy, she being unable to do so from her pension. She has been working until recently but now her health has failed, and the problem of covering the little feet was passed on to us. It did not take us long to solve it satisfactorily.

Wanted: A Friend:—A pathetic letter reached us from an ex-soldier's widow. Her husband was discharged from the Army with a shattered thigh, was unable to work, and finally died from the effects of influenza. There are five children, half-fed and half-clothed, as their mother is unable to work owing to the state of her health.

Further Cases.—

Sailor's widow met with accident, was unable to find means to pay for her children to be looked after.

Discharged soldier, suffering from fractured spine; small family, two of them delicate.

Daughter of soldier died uninsured; no money with which to bury her.

Child suffering from pneumonia, and necessity of meeting doctor's bill and buying nourishment had put rent in arrears.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

J. N. P. (Nottingham), 2s. 6d.; T. C. S. (Edinburgh), £5; "Maud and Mary" (Castleford), £5; "A Surrey," 2s. 6d.; "Taxi Driver 2272," £1; "A Regular Reader" (Surbiton), £5; Port and Engine Room Officers, s.s. *Pringenedet*, £1; "A Canadian Soldier," 2s. 6d.; "Blossom," 5s.; A. L. R. (Lincoln), 5d.; R. B., 2d.; A. C. (Lancaster), 10s.; Pte. B. T., 2s.; Capt. W. H. K., 5s. 6d.; "A Constant Reader" (Deptford), £1; O. M. H., £1; "In Mem. S.S.S.," 4s.; Mrs. A. T. (Letoa), 10s.; D. B. (Emsworth), 2s.; "Huguenot," £1; "A Well-Wisher" (Ramsgate), 2s.; "The Boys in Blue" (H.M.S. *Dagger*), 5s.; H.M.S. T.B.D. (per Q. O.), 10s.; "Gratitude's Practical Expression," 2s. 6d.; "Mary" (Halifax), £1; "A Canadian Soldier," £2; "Inverness" (Scottish Horse), 2s. 6d.; "Mary" (Rigsby), £1; J. A. A., £10; Mrs. P. (Shipley) 5s. 6d.; "Mort," £1; "Five, Nottingham," £1; Lieut. H. E. W. (Dover), £5; Mrs. H. V. (New York), £1 5s.; K. J. S. (Burton-on-Trent), 6d.; M. C. M., 5s.; "Soldier's Wife," £1; "In Memory of Oliver," £1 and parcel; Mrs. M. E. W., 2s. 6d.; "Thanksgiving," 2s. 6d.; Mrs. J. (Kirkbridge), £1 6d.; Mrs. J. S. F., £1 6d.; Mrs. A. F., £1 6d.; "A Badger," £1; N. P., £1; "A Wounded Canadian," £10; "Which?" £1; I. M. S. (Thornton Heath), £1; "Tommy," £1; "Two Widows," £1; K. T. F. (Abbassia), £10; "Scottish," £1 6d.; Rev. L. S. (Bangalore), £1 6s. 1d.; Mrs. E. H., £1 6d.; W. M., 6d.; "Auntie," £1; J. R., £10; "A Scot in the City," £1; F. H. (Melksham), £1 6d.; J. W. (Northampton), £1; Gunner L. L., £1; L. P. (Liverpool), 6d.; M. K. B. (Handsworth), £10; P. O., £1; Pte. W. J. L., £1 5s.; s.s. *Argentina* (per A. H. S.), £1; "A Well Wisher" (Lancaster), £10; "Merchant Jack," £1; H. W. (Alford), £1 5d.; U. A. P., £1 5s.; C. R. (Fife), £1 5d.; E. G. (West Hurst), £10; "Cock," £2; J. H. J., 6d.; "A Scot," £1 6d.; "Tommy's Mother" (Cherrehill), £1 6d.; "Oakdale Road," £1 6d.; "Policeman's Wife," £1 6d.; "Tempo," £2 10s.; E. P. (Burton), £10; A. and E. (Dewsbury), £1; T. S. C. (Birmingham), £1; J. M., 6d.; L. K. (Harringay), £1 6d.; W. H., £1; "Punch," £10; "A Widow's Mite," £1; M. W. P., £1 6d.; Mrs. J. B., £1 6d.; F. J. A. Staff (per A. J. W.), £1 1s.; Crew of s.s. *Dentuce Castle*, £5; R. L. (Hereford), £1 6d.

"I'D LIKE TO TAKE UP PELMANISM, BUT—"

SOME DOUBTS DISPELLED.

The very prominence which Pelmanism has attained during recent years forms the basis of a doubt which exists in the minds of many people. A business girl said to me only the other day, "I'd like to take up Pelmanism, but it's so much advertised that I wonder whether there is not a certain amount of quackery about it."

The association of extensive advertising with quackery is a relic of long years ago, but it is strange how it persists. I was rather surprised, nevertheless, to hear this business woman express the doubt, for she is a marked success in her sphere of work, with a keen analytical mind.

Inquiry revealed the fact that she had read only one or two of the Pelman announcements closely, though she had glanced in a half interested way at scores of them. I then divulged that I was a Pelmanist, and immediately a regular machine-gun fire of questions was opened upon me. Was there anything in Pelmanism? Was it free from quackery?

IS THE CASE OVER-STATED?

Did not the advertisements over-state the case? Was the most made of the successes attained by a few students, while the many secured no benefit worth speaking of? To all of which I replied by two further questions: Was it conceivable that over 400,000 people would voluntarily adopt Pelmanism, unless they were convinced that they would gain something by the study? Would so many of the leaders of thought, including prominent educationalists, influential business men, and well-known authors and editors, publicly state their unbounded faith and belief in Pelmanism if it were not capable of withstanding the most searching investigation?

TREBLED MY INCOME.

These bricks-and-mortar considerations took instant effect, and I followed up my advantage by mentioning some of the results Pelmanism had achieved in my own case: vast improvement in memory; keener perceptions; realisation of dormant possibilities; consciousness of greater power; appreciation of the beauties of poetry; easier concentration. I reserved for my final shots the two most practical outcomes of my Pelmanistic studies.

The first of these had a telling effect, for this would-be Pelmanist was full of ambitious plans in business. I told her that during the past two years my earnings had more than trebled, in spite of many difficulties and setbacks, and that to Pelmanism was due the major part of the credit for this financial improvement. The other result was the consummation of an ambitious plan which I had often contemplated, but which, until I had become a Pelmanist, I honestly believed to be something unattainable.

This conversation suggested to me that others are probably deterred from taking up Pelmanism by a variety of "buts," each of which could be disposed of in a minute or two if only it were possible for me to talk to them face to face.

For instance, at various times friends of mine have said: "But I'm not enough of a student to tackle Pelmanism. I could never sit and pore over books and lessons, even if I could find the time." Here we have a dual objection: (1) Pelmanism is thought to be hard to study, and (2) no time can be found for it. Let us deal with the second part of this objection first.

The Pelman Course requires from thirty to sixty minutes daily for a period of about three or four months. Many of the exercises can be practised at odd moments—when walking through the streets, while waiting in a friend's office or home, during train or 'bus rides, and so on. Other parts of the study can be done at home or at the office without seriously encroaching on one's time for other matters. The main fact to be borne in mind is that all of us can find or make time to do those things which really interest us. And Pelmanism is one of those things. Which brings me to the first part of the objection we are rebutting. Pelmanism is as unlike ordinary formal studies as anything can well be.

The very first lesson reveals the fascination of Pelmanism, and this fascination becomes intensified with each succeeding "little grey book." Of course, you cannot get the most out of Pelmanism unless you are prepared to follow the training closely. But any Pelmanist will tell you that there is no difficulty in doing this. Pelmanism itself provides whatever incentive may be needed by those who by nature are disinclined to apply themselves to study. Thus we can dismiss the plea of personal inaptitude for study.

BRAIN POWER.

A frequent contention of the anti-Pelmanists (for there are people who, without knowing what Pelmanism is, are opposed to it) is that it is impossible to make brains grow where none exist. By which they apparently mean that Pelmanism will not make wise men of dullards. Let me say that, so far as I know, The Pelman Institute has never claimed to be able to perform miracles, though tens of thousands of its members would unhesitatingly declare it has done so in their cases. An ordinary school education is the only foundation necessary to enable any man or woman to become a successful Pelmanist.

In fact, it might be said with a great deal of truth that Pelmanism can be of far more benefit to those of comparatively *few* scholastic attainments than to those who have been endowed with a more liberal education. To be deterred from taking up Pelmanism because it is thought that only "brainy" people can make profitable use of it, is to allow oneself to be influenced by an inaccurate or incomplete idea of what Pelmanism is and does.

EMINENT MEN ON PELMANISM.

On another occasion I was told that Pelmanism was chiefly a matter of very clever advertising, and that the merits of the system existed almost entirely in the imagination of the man responsible for the Pelman announcements. This critic, however, could not explain how it was that men of the calibre of Admiral Lord Beresford, General Sir O'Moore Creagh, V.C., Lieut.-Gen. Sir R. S. S. Baden-Powell, Sir Arthur Quiller Couch, Sir Wm. Robertson Nicoll, Sir H. Rider Haggard, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., Mr. Geo. R. Sims, Mr. Max Pemberton, and many others came to write such glowing tributes to this Course in Mind and Memory Training.

He agreed that their testimony was unimpeachable, and admitted (rather reluctantly, I thought) that perhaps there was more in Pelmanism than he had supposed. It is the declared opinion of hundreds of Pelmanists that the announcements of the Institute err distinctly on the side of moderation. Although the advertisements tell nothing but the truth, they do not tell all the truth, on the principle, I take it, that enough is as good as a feast.

Then there' the man who says: "Yes, Pelmanism is no doubt all right for the brain worker or student, but I'm a mechanic"—or a farmer, a grocer, a policeman, a telegraphist, a rate collector, as the case may be. Just because some people reach much greater success than others in these vocations is proof that there is scope for keen workers in these and similar fields.

PELMANISM FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS.

A Pelman trained mind will show the industrial worker, for instance, on which direction advancement lies, and what steps to take to attain the goal toward which he is striving. Thousands of letters from Pelmanists have been published at various times, demonstrating in unmistakable manner the great benefit which anyone can derive from the course. A coal miner declares Pelmanism to be very useful to him in his work; a munition worker gives Pelmanism direct credit for his ability to design a patent pile; a Member of Parliament says he never spent money to better advantage than on the Course. These instances could be multiplied almost indefinitely. The man or woman who hesitates to adopt Pelmanism through a mistaken notion that it is useful only to the business and professional classes is neglecting the supreme opportunity of his or her life.

If you have any lurking suspicion or any feeling of doubt concerning Pelmanism, apply to the Pelman Institute, at the address below, for a copy of "Mind and Memory," and carefully read it through. No one who will take that slight trouble will longer remain unconvinced of the advantages which Pelmanism confers on those who adopt it in a whole-hearted fashion.

"Mind and Memory," in which the Pelman Course is fully described, with a Synopsis of the Lessons, will be sent, gratis and post free, together with a full report of TIT-BITS famous Report on the Pelman System and a free coaching voucher of JOHN BULL *to the complete Course at a reduced fee, on application to the Pelman Institute, 15, Pelman House, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1.*

Offices: 130, 148, Market Street, Melbourne; 15, Toronto; Club Arcade, Durban.

To The PELMAN INSTITUTE,
15, PELMAN HOUSE, BLOOMSBURY STREET,
LONDON, W.C.1.

SIR,—Please send me, gratis and post free, a copy of the book, "Mind and Memory," a copy of *Tit-Bits* latest report, and particulars of the Special Offer entitling me to take the Pelman Course for one third less than the usual fee.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

All Correspondence is Confidential.

It's worth 8/- to you—see page ii of cover.

RACING NOTES AND ANTICIPATIONS.

By "THE SQUIRE."

SELECTIONS FOR GATWICK.—THE IVANHOE AND CORYDON MATCH.

After a quiet meeting at Wolverhampton we shall be getting back to real business at Gatwick, where there is a two-days' meeting on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Fields will be on a considerably larger scale than was the case in the Midlands, and from every point of view the sport promises to be much more interesting. Neither the Dicker nor the Epsom stable has been in evidence since Manchester, but I expect them now to turn out in force again, and I shall not be at all surprised to see the Editor of this journal carry off the first two races on both days—as was his wont last season. Certainly he seems to hold the key to the situation in those events, whilst Hyam's stable will also play a strong hand.

The outstanding feature of the Meeting, however, will be the sporting match on the second day between Mr. James White's Ivanhoe and Mr. Bottomley's Corydon—for £250 aside, two miles over hurdles. The match was the outcome of a discussion at a lunch party at which both owners were present, and it was left to another guest, Mr. Solly Joel, to make the handicap, which he has done by asking Ivanhoe, the elder horse, to concede 14 lbs. to Corydon. Personally, I entertain no doubt whatever as to the result, and with Duller—than whom there is no better match-rider in the world—on Mr. Bottomley's horse, I feel sure that another popular ovation awaits the victory of the "vermilion and black jacket, white sleeves and cap." At the time of writing Ivanhoe is said to be the nominal favourite, but I am sure the market position will be reversed when the public comes to take a hand.

This revival of so truly sporting an event is certain to meet with the intense appreciation of the racing public, to whom nothing appeals more than these personal battles. I am quite sure that the crowd at Gatwick will not be disappointed in their expectation of a thoroughly exciting duel. Mr. Bottomley has always had a liking for such individual contests—while Mr. White, from his long and prominent association with another branch of sport, naturally has an inclination in the same direction.

We may also see last year's Grand National winner, Poethlyn, out again, although I don't think he is yet wound up to concert pitch, and the same remark will apply to several other long-distance 'chasers.

With these preliminary observations I will now give my full selections for the Meeting:—

WEDNESDAY.

Warnham Hurdle.—CANUTE.
Tinsley Steeplechase.—MACHERRY.
Four-Year-Old Hurdle.—LLANS LUCRE.
Pegasus Steeplechase.—POLLEN OF SANESO.
Moderate Hurdle.—CARRIG PARK.
Kingswood Steeplechase.—SHAUN SPADAIL.

THURSDAY.

Courtland Steeplechase.—MINSTREL PARK.
Horsham Hurdle.—ROYAL SIGNET OF HARRY CRAG.
Deepdene Hurdle.—AYNSLEY OF JOHN JACKET.
Timberham Hurdle.—ST. ELOI.
Earlswood Steeplechase.—LOCH ALLEN.
Match.—CORYDON.
Stayers' Steeplechase.—WAYLACE OF TURBINE SECUNDUS.

PRINTER'S PIE.

(Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of every item published under this heading. Envelopes must be marked "Pie.")

"NUGGET" BOOT POLISH (Directions printed inside lid):—
"A tablespoonful added to an ordinary sized bath . . . will immediately soften it and give a DELICATE PERFUME TO THE SKIN."

"GLASGOW EVENING TIMES":—
"He ascended . . . to the record height for an AERODROME of six miles."

"BIRMINGHAM DAILY MAIL" (In Memoriam notice):—
"In loving memory of my dear husband ——, late of —— St., Ladywood. (PRESENT ADDRESS, —— Road)."

"MANCHESTER SUNDAY CHRONICLE":—
"Doris's pretty LIPS parted in a foolish STARE. This was a new idea to her."

"YORKSHIRE TELEGRAPH AND STAR":—
"The weather FORECAST for Sheffield and district for the LAST 24 HOURS . . . is as follows: . . ."

"REYNOLDS'S NEWSPAPER":—
"You are not going to send the Comte de Trevieres to his death A SECOND TIME!"

"DUNDEE ADVERTISER":—
"The National Transport Workers' Federation have forwarded to the Municipal Tramways and Light Railways Association . . . the following demands:—That every employee shall be guaranteed a working WEEK of 44 YEARS."

"SHIELDS DAILY GAZETTE AND SHIPPING TELEGRAPH":—
"The problem of disposing of the huge amount of tonnage built in the United States and in this country has, I FEAR . . . been SOLVED SATISFACTORILY."

COMPANY MEETING.

LEVINSTEIN, LTD.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of Messrs. Levinstein, Limited, was held on Monday, December 23rd, Lord Armaghdale presiding.

The Chairman said:—

The amalgamation between British Dyes, Limited, and our own company is now practically an accomplished fact.

On November 29th circulars were sent out to the ordinary shareholders asking them to sign a form of assent and authority to myself and my colleagues, Sir H. D. McGowan, K.B.E., and Dr. Herbert Levinstein, agreeing to the proposed exchange of your ordinary shares in Levinstein, Limited, for fully-paid shares in the new company to be called the British Dyestuffs Corporation, Limited, and enabling us on your behalf to exercise the transfer as soon as the new company comes into existence.

A similar circular was sent out on the same date to the ordinary shareholders of British Dyes, Limited.

As regards our own preference shareholders, the new company is willing either to buy their holding for cash or to exchange for each £10 preference share ten 7 per cent. non-cumulative £1 preference shares in the British Dyestuffs Corporation, Limited.

All classes of shareholders in both companies were asked to sign their forms of assent and to return them to us not later than December 16th.

I am glad to be able to inform you that an overwhelming majority of the holders of ordinary and preference shares in our company and of the ordinary shareholders in British Dyes, Limited, have returned their assents. Only an insignificant minority have failed to return their forms. I would ask these few shareholders kindly to lose no further time in filling up and returning them to me, as the offer to exchange is still open, but cannot be kept open indefinitely.

It is gratifying to me to know that you have approved of our scheme, and that the country will at last have the advantage of presenting a more united front in the great commercial struggle with the German dye industry which is about to begin. Make no mistake about it, the future success of the textile trades of this country depends largely on the successful outcome of this struggle.

Prior to the war the Germans had acquired a control over the textile trades of all countries in the world. It was one of their most potent forms of "peaceful penetration," the political importance of which in India, China, Russia, Persia, and the Near East has never received proper recognition.

In our own country the danger of being dependent upon Germany for a supply of dyestuffs is now clear to everybody, but prior to the war this was not the case. This lack of recognition is, in my opinion, chiefly due to the fact that the German plans were not completed. A process was going on in Germany by which in a very short space of time it was proposed to absorb all dangerous rivals in the dye industry, crushing out in the process, if they could, all those who, like ourselves, recognised the German menace and had the courage to stand out against it. The moment that this scheme was completed, and it was very near completion, consumers in this country would have realised their danger and would have been ready to fight against it, but it would have been too late to take effective measures to protect themselves.

The Germans are, we know, specious and plausible while acquiring domination, but entirely arbitrary and unscrupulous when they are in the ascendant.

An independent aniline dye industry is therefore vital to the national security.

From national reasons you will regret as much as I do the great and unnecessary delay which has restricted, to an extent of which the people are not aware, the developments of the industry in this country.

The country in general and the textile trades in particular owe a great debt to the President of the Board of Trade and to the Dyes Commissioner for their initiative in this matter, and for the very valuable assistance which they have consistently given to the industry.

It is a matter of regret to me that with the formation of the British Dyestuffs Corporation I propose to sever my active connection with the aniline dye industry. After 23 years as chairman of your company I feel entitled to enjoy a little more leisure. I am glad to think that under my chairmanship the company has achieved such a great position both in the industrial and scientific world. Our successor, the British Dyestuffs Corporation, have a most important task before them, in which I heartily hope and believe they will have every success.

Very considerable extensions are necessary before the company can complete the production programme which has been mapped out. Adequate funds will no doubt be forthcoming, and I would like to emphasise, as I did last year, and I believe, in the previous year, that adequate financial support is the one thing essential to our carrying out the desire of the Government and rendering this country independent of German dyestuffs. On the scientific side success is certain.

There is a far greater amount of chemical talent in the country than is generally realised. A great deal of it was never previously enlisted in the public service, but during the war purely academic chemists have rendered considerable service to the State in investigating new substances and devising new processes for offensive and defensive warfare. This has brought many university professors for the first time in touch with manufacturing requirements. Their experience will, I trust, prove of advantage both to pure science and also to industry, particularly to our industry, which is based on science and lives by scientific research.

The old academic tradition that research work which would lead to immediate practical results was beneath the dignity of science is dying out. Nobody desires universities to neglect research on subjects of abstract and purely theoretical interest, but nobody rejoices more than the leaders of our industry at the closer feeling of unity which has been established between the leaders of pure science and the leaders in the application of science to industry. Brilliant men who formerly stood apart are now anxious to help, and we who know how to use their assistance welcome them most cordially, and require their aid. I for one will never believe that we in this country, roused at last to battle in the domain of science, will prove unequal to our task.

We stood in the organisation of scientific industries as far behind the Germans as

(Continued on page 13.)

Run risks no longer—accept our offer on page ii of cover.

LEVINSTEIN, LTD.

(*Continued from page 12.*)

we did in the organisation of great armies. We have succeeded by a great national effort in surpassing the German military achievement. A similar national effort is now required on the part of our scientific industries.

REVIEW OF PAST TWELVE MONTHS.

During the past twelve months, owing to the restrictions imposed upon us by the Government, our Ellesmere Port factory was compelled to go on to short time for over two months, thereby creating for a period a shortage of synthetic indigo in this country, from which we have not fully recovered. I am glad to say the factory for some time past has been operating to its fullest extent. Now that the war is over we are looking forward to large developments.

In addition to the manufacture of indigo great developments have taken place in the manufacture of dyestuffs akin to indigo, and a considerable number of such products previously only manufactured in Germany have been put on the market during the last twelve months. They are known to consumers as vat dyestuffs, and were previously not manufactured in this country. If any of you is interested in a further description of these dyestuffs I would refer him to a chapter called "Indigo and Its Family" in a little pamphlet which we have issued under the title "Four Years' Work."

The company has acquired at Ellesmere Port two options to purchase land, in close proximity to the existing works. The site possesses a two-mile frontage to the Manchester Ship Canal. An unlimited supply of water is available from the underlying sandstone, and the effluent can be disposed of under the Ship Canal into the River Mersey by means of a syphon pipe already in existence.

The land is level, suitable for building, and close to the North Wales coalfields.

In its geographical position and other advantages this land compares favourably not only with the site of any chemical works in the Kingdom, but what is more important, with that of the German aniline dye factories situated on the banks of the Rhine.

As soon as the light railway order authorising us to connect this land with the London and North-Western and Great Western joint system has been completed we propose to exercise the first of the options in question.

Our constructional programme, both at Blackley and Ellesmere Port, has been practically stopped during the past twelve months owing to the impossibility of acquiring priority, and therefore the production of dyes in those factories has not increased to the extent desired. At the same time our range of dyes has been strengthened, and above all a large amount of highly important research work has been carried out, the benefits of which we shall feel as soon as we are able to construct the factories.

It will be known to most of you that the company has taken an important share in the development of the gas warfare during the past twelve months, a branch in which no building restrictions were imposed. I cannot yet enter into details of this work, but you will be glad to know that our record is in some respects unique. We undertook on our own initiative the manufacture of probably the most dangerous product used in the war, the production of which had caused very great difficulties to the Allied belligerents and a large number of casualties to those who had undertaken its manufacture.

By the close co-operation of our research and manufacturing resources we solved the technical difficulties, erected the plant, and delivered this material by a process which was safe, simple, cheap, and practical. It was not the kind of thing which most people would undertake to make voluntarily.

The results of our investigation and the drawings of our plant were placed freely and without charge at the disposal not only of our own Government, but of all the Governments associated with us in the war.

It will gratify you to know that the information received from us proved of the greatest value, and that in the opinion of competent authorities our deliveries played an important part on the field of battle.

Had the armistice come a few weeks later certain developments in our manufacture of gas would have had time to become effective in France.

The enemy chose for surrendering the moment when the Gas Warfare Department of the Allies was about to overwhelm him, although he had a long start in this particular method of frightfulness.

I call your special attention to this point because gas warfare had become most scientific before the war ended. Our success in beating the German in this branch is significant to those who, like myself, believe that we can also surpass his very considerable achievements in the aniline dye industry.

ACCOUNTS.

I regret to inform you that, as was the case last year, we are unable to present to you our accounts owing to the delay in coming to a settlement with the Inland Revenue with regard to the payment of the excess profits tax. For this reason, too, it is impossible for me, and I greatly regret this, to inform you of the number of shares in the British Dyestuffs Corporation which you will receive in exchange for your present holding in Levinstein, Ltd. I am sure that you will find the accounts, when they can be finally settled, and also the holding which you will have in the British Dyestuffs Corporation entirely satisfactory.

Our production of dyes in the year ending June 30th, 1918, is 7½ times the production of the former year. This increase represents our expansion only very inadequately. The expansion in the production of intermediate products is even more important.

In 1914 we made 1,405,490 lb. of intermediate products.

In 1918 our production of intermediate products was 15,160,122 lb., nearly 11 times the production of 1914.

This figure comprises over 150 products.

In 1914 most of the intermediate products we used in our works were made in Germany.

In 1918 we made 7½ times as much dyestuff, and made it from intermediates manufactured entirely by ourselves. This is not all. We could not buy all the nitric acid and oleum required for the manufacture of intermediate products; we had to make them ourselves. In 1918 we made 22,619,363 lb. of these products, of which we made none in 1914.

We have not spent a penny in the erection of plant for the manufacture of substances which we could buy from outside sources. If we have made ourselves independent in the supply of intermediate products it was because there was nobody else in this country who was either able or willing to supply us.

Now let me make a comparison of profits. During the five years immediately preceding the war, years of very bitter competition with the Germans, our average profit amounted to a sum equal to 17 per cent. on our share capital. In those years the Germans supplied most of the aniline dyes used in this country, and our production was limited by the amount which we could sell. The prices we obtained were on the whole less than those obtained by the Germans, because we were always endeavouring to cut in and oust the man in possession.

Our overhead charges for research and for the selling organisation were unduly high in comparison with those of the Germans, owing to our small output.

Had we produced in 1914 the quantity of dyes we produced in 1918, our profits would have approached those made, say, by one of the more important German companies. Owing to the reduction in the ratio of overhead charges they could not fail to have been far more than seven times our profits in 1914, always provided that we had sold these quantities at the same prices as the Germans were obtaining in that year.

Although in 1918 our production of dyes has gone up seven and a half times and our production of intermediate products is nearly 11 times greater, I estimate that our net profits on dyestuffs will only prove to be 6.15 times our profit for 1914. In making this estimate I am deducting the profit on the intermediate products.

I think it important that you should fully understand the significance of these figures which I have given you.

Prominence has been given in the Press to the high prices of dyestuffs, chiefly those dyestuffs which come into the hands of dealers. The high cost of raw materials is very generally overlooked, and also the effect of the present war taxation, which presses so heavily on what is practically a new industry in this country.

Had we been able to manufacture and sell in 1914 the same quantity of dyes and intermediate products we now make, our profits would have been far larger than they are to-day.

The annual profits made by the Germans over a long period of years in this country are very much greater than the profits which we have made in 1918, so far as we can estimate them. The German profits were largely invested in their business. The German plants are for the most part intact, and whilst they have been enormously extended for the purpose of making poison gas and other munitions of war, the dye plant which remains is more than sufficient to supply her internal requirements.

We have yet to erect, at a high cost, a large amount of plant. The German plants were erected at a much lower cost, and have already been written off.

It is clear, therefore, that in the meantime we must have assistance from the State, for we must have breathing time in which to complete our factories, organise our staffs, and devote to purposes of peace the energies which have been devoted to the State for the purposes of war.

I hope to have made clear to you that our profits, which have been substantial, are entirely due to the enormous increase in our output. They will prove to be much less than those which consumers so cheerfully enabled the Germans to make for many years before the outbreak of war.

In the case of the new company the Board of Trade has very properly decided that the dividend shall be limited to 8 per cent., and has taken powers to interfere should in their opinion prices be too high or should the distribution of its products be unfair. I do not believe that the Board of Trade will ever have cause to exercise these powers, but we very gladly agreed to these provisions, which make it certain that consumers will never have any reason to regret giving the British Dyestuff Corporation their whole hearted support.

MR. CLAUS.

You will have seen by the notice convening this meeting that Mr. Claus has resigned his seat on our Board, and I wish to tell you how much we regret that he is retiring from business, and that we shall no longer have the benefit of his experience and ability at the Clayton works.

Mr. Claus is leaving the North of England, and I am sure that he will carry with him a warm feeling in his heart for those with whom he has been so long associated in business.

STAFF.

In the strenuous year's work which I have outlined to you we have received the most loyal and whole-hearted co-operation from the staff. Work has been very heavy and the hours long, but all have risen to the occasion in the knowledge that by their efforts they were doing their duty in the great struggle.

Our relations with our workpeople have also been of the happiest, and it is my earnest hope that the new Corporation will be served with the same faithfulness and good will as the old firm.

I wish to offer my own personal thanks and those of my colleagues on the Board to the staff and the workpeople for the devotedest service which they have given to your business.

The retiring director, Lord Armaghdale, was re-elected. Mr. Edward Patterson, of Ashworth, Mosley and Co., was re-elected auditor of this company.

You can speak fluent

FRENCH, SPANISH or ITALIAN

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30 HOURS'

EASY STUDY

by Dr. Rosenthal's unique system, which is by far the simplest, quickest and most practical method of learning these languages. Only **Ten Minutes'** application **three times a day** for **ten weeks** is necessary, and you speak the language after the first day's study.

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The pleasant and memorable study will greatly increase your earning power, widen your outlook, and reveal new joys in the language of to-day.

READ AND ACCEPT SPECIAL OFFER BELOW

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Extract from recent Government Report —

"... of considerable importance to the nation that the study of the German language should be not only maintained but extended."

Be prepared for the commercial fight now commencing. Study German now by the simple Rosenthal method.

To Pask & Walbank Co. Salisbury House, London, E.C.1

Please send me, by return, your offer of Dr. ROSENTHAL'S SYSTEM OF LANGUAGE STUDY for the ... Language, for which I enclose ... (Instructions for Postal Orders, £2 2 0)

Mr. ...
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Name ...
Address ...

THREE-DAYS' FREE EXAMINATION FORM.

WRITE FOR PROFIT.

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN.

The free booklet, "How to make Money with your Pen," will tell you how. Write now for interesting information, which gives particulars of Practical Correspondence Courses conducted and experienced Tutors here.

TERMS MODERATE. Courses (if ...) NEARLY ... Instruction for Postal Courses, £2 2 0.

For these AMAZINGLY LOW FEES Students are given a complete Course of Instruction in everything essential to success. Work is criticised, most carefully, suitable MSS. are placed for publication at highest rates, and CASH IS PAID IMMEDIATELY you see your name. Many beginners have succeeded in EARNING MONEY WHILE LEARNING, some even during their Course receiving the highest rates payable. In Journalism alone, for MSS. in the Daily Mail.

One of the many successful students writes:

"I have to thank you for the order for a series of articles obtained for me from the Editor of Lloyd's Magazine. Having had little correspondence I am becoming experienced, and have earned by writing since I began more than ... fee I paid you. R.W.D."

For Free Booklet, write to "Practical Literary Training," 573, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2.

WE BUY OLD JEWELLERY—

Hunter Watches, Hunter Bar Watches, Keyless, Fob Hunters, Gold Chains, Albert Chains, Diamond Rings, Pearls, and all other precious Stones. Will some valuable article in ... lieu of what you have per Registered Post. By return you receive ... offer. If accepted, we send ... cash by Registered ... Parcels forthwith. ... ARTHUR A. ... LTD., Jewellers, 95 & 96, Worcester Road, ... Bank, Essex. Established ... Reference, ... National Provincial Bank of England, ... Branch.

POCKET LIGHTERS.

Spirit Pattern 3/6 & 3/9 each.
Tinder Pattern 1/6 & 1/9 each.
(TAX PAID)

Plate consists of ... best quality, full size Silk ... to fit ... Pattern ... Pattern ... Flints, wheels, springs, pads, etc.

(J.B.), ARMOURY
41 Montague Bldgs., London, E.C. 1.

It may be your turn next!—so turn to page ii of cover.

"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and chats with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only should be forwarded in the first instance.*

LETTERS *must be addressed to the Editor or Publishers, 92, Long Acre, W.C. 2, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters.* FINANCIAL, INSURANCE, *or* LEGAL *inquiries should be addressed to the Financial, Insurance, or Legal Editor, and must each be accompanied by a postal order for one shilling. No fee is charged in respect of other inquiries. Full names and addresses should be given.*

THE EDITOR'S THANKS.—The Editor has again to return thanks—this time for New Year's Greetings, and for further batches of congratulations on his electorial success, from readers abroad.

C. C. (Ealing Common) and OTHERS want us to offer our services to the Prime Minister as Home Secretary, but if we did so and the offer were not accepted, what *would* the Premier say the first time we criticised him in the House?

E. W. R. N. (Hull).—Take it from us, the Licensing Restrictions cannot last much longer. Mr. Tea Leaf Jones & Company fared very badly at the polls.

F. T. (H.M.S. *City of London*).—We are loth to believe that Admiral Beatty, in praising the work of the American destroyers, depreciated our own. The cutting you send is from a Yankee paper, so we are permitted to doubt.

W. S. (Leicester).—"Mac left us at 5 o'clock yesterday for London, fed up." Good for Leicester; bad for London.

E. C. (Oxford).—"All hail, and welcome to the old, old seat!" All hail, and we don't care if it snows.

M. S. (Chorlton).—Cheer up! Saith not Ecclesiasticus that gladness of heart is the life of man, and the joyfulness of a man prolongeth his days?

T. G. (Sydenham).—Nothing new at all Many political clubs have had financial or other cause for widening their membership on non-party basis.

"TATTIE" (Burn Farm).—"Jenny thinks a lot o' ye; I buy yer paper; the laddies blether about ye; our meenister praises ye up; our——" Gang awa, lassie, or ye'll mak us like a lobster.

D. J. (Seaton Carew) sends us an old page of the *London Magazine* on the talents and virtues of the Clown Prince, to prove how the public were spoofed at the time of King George's coronation.

W. B. T. (Stamford Brook).—All dumb animals have in us a firm friend, and all human brutes a bitter enemy.

N. R. (Lodden Bridge).—"You are now entitled to add M.P. after your name; I hope you will turn out all right." That's exactly what we hope.

"TRUSTFUL" (Manchester).—It was probably Mr. Wilson's own idea to visit France before coming to England, but he ought, of course, to have consulted your wishes in the matter.

"FARMER" (Dartford).—If it is true that the Government have bought tractors at £95 and sold them to farmers for £220, all we can say is that David is also among the profiteers.

MRS. M. R. (Rhyl).—"What religion are the Kaiser and his family?" By religion they are Hellenzollerns.

F. W. C. (Middlesbrough).—Very rude of the shopkeeper to call your wife a "ginger-headed cat." It would have served him jolly well right if you had shaken your finger at him.

A. S. (Cambridge).—As you say, your verses will "help fill the waste-paper-basket," but you will be gratified to learn that we read them through without having to resort to stimulants.

"HUMBLE JACK" (Walthamstow).—It was grossly unfair to charge you, a sailor, the full civilian fare because you lost your ticket. We must keep an eye on those Great Western officials.

PTE. S. G. (Montrose).—If we were called upon to create vacancies on our staff for all "Independent Free-Thinkers, Followers of our Principles, and JOHN BULL readers of 10 years standing," we should have to commandeer a dozen hotels to accommodate them.

MRS. C. (Felixstowe).—More German post-cards! palmed off on you by a shopkeeper. And your little daughter said, "Write and tell Lord Bottomley!" O lord!

C. B. (B.E.F.).—"To settle a wager, in what part of Great Britain is the most correct English spoken?" We have often said—at 93, Long Acre. If you doubt, come and hear the foreman speaking to the printer's devil. It will settle any wager. And the wagerers.

MRS. A. S. (Epworth).—Four poor little ones; father killed in September, mother died in November. The overseers, acting on your advice, have arranged for them to enter the Duke of York's School, that fine Orphanage for Soldiers' Children. They will now have a real chance in life. Thanks for your kindly interest.

G. I. (Oswestry).—"I am leaving old England behind." Too heavy to carry?

"JADI" (Wolverhampton).—There are some things we would believe if we could, and others we wouldn't if we could. Your yarn is one of them.

H. W. (Mill End) wants an acknowledgment and cheque for suggesting that D.O.R.A. means "Do away with Realm Act." He receives a cheque right here.

"TWO OLD AGE PENSIONERS."—"Wife 79, me 78—no Christmas dinner or other nourishment this year." A sad, sad picture in this year of Grace.

G. A. B. (Brook War Hospital).—"Have you a vacancy on your staff for a student of elevated ideals and vivid imagination?" Elevated Ideals Department full up; Vivid Imagination Department closed down.

S. A. P. (Putney).—"God He our prayer hath heard, Let every heart be stirred, God save the King. Proved by the King of Heaven, Victory and Peace was given, Nobly our King hath striven, God save the King." The best yet.

G. H. (Jarrow).—"When I was refused currants at a shop I told them I would write to you about it. That got them sent to my door. Your name works wonders." It acted like electric currents.

A. O. (Walthamstow).—Fancy you remembering "what happened after the Crimean War." Glad you don't blame us for it, anyway.

W. H. E. (East Dulwich).—So you think the placard "JOHN BULL: Sentenced to be Shot," may have "alarmed the uninitiated." It did make London a bit nervy for an hour or two.

L. C. H. (Handsworth).—"I ain't no bloomin' scholar, nor yet a great Laureate, For when I had to go to school, I wrote upon a slate," It is our intention to have your poem framed, and to burn our Bridges.

MRS. E. L. (Warrington).—So you think you have "caught us napping." Better not be quite certain till you actually hear us snore.

H. E. C. (Notting Hill).—Not very sporting, because you dislike Lord D'Abernon, to express the hope that one of his jockeys should "break his belly neck." Looks as though your brains want rinsing.

J. S. (Southend).—We accept your disclaimer that the entertainment at Southend on that Sunday afternoon was not a concert, but a "Popular Service" accompanied by a military band. If your Mayor is, as you maintain, a "broad and open-minded man," why on earth does he not act like one?

R. O. (West Bromwich).—Our definition of Bolshevism is: Red ruin and the breaking up of laws.

"A BLUEJACKET" (Portsmouth).—"Bought two halfpenny cakes for my little boy. Shop assistant charged me 2d. for paper bag to put them in." He ought to put his head in a sack.

P. W. Y. (Lincoln).—You certainly seem to have earned the O.B.E. To avoid misconception, we had better say we are trying to be complimentary.

"CLEE HILL" (Salop).—"Oh, when will the war be over, So we can have more grub; We have to wait for our pay till Friday—In the week we can't get a sub." Some poet, you.

J. J. T. (Cardiganshire).—"As you don't print poems, I sent one to my son when fighting in France." Should have thought he had troubles enough

E. E. H. (Littleworth).—Thanks for excellent intentions; but when you say, "Good luck now ends my rhyme" you tell a wopper. There *is* no rhyme.

"READER" (Hanley) complains that his girl's employer, a grocer, has got into a habit of putting his arm round her and kissing her. That grocer will see stars if he doesn't stop it.

L. W. (Wath).—"It is with profound regret that I find no reference in your paper this week to our marriage laws." Here goes at once. They are good, bad, and indifferent, and ought to be soled and heeled.

B. B. (Manningtree).—Unfortunately, owing to the destruction by air raid of the machinery upon which this paper had been printed, we are not at present able to wire-stitch it. However, we sincerely hope in the course of a few months to be able to revert to the old practice, and meanwhile are sure our readers will exercise forbearance.

MRS. M. D. (Wimbledon).—Advt. from local paper. "Wanted, German conversation for Christmas holidays." Advertiser should have got himself introduced to Macdonaldbacher, Schnowdenstein (ex-M.P.s) and Co.

J. A. (Peckham).—A low-down thing for two men to lodge with you as wounded soldiers and clear out without paying. Be more careful to verify references.

N. B. (Huddesdon).—It was Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe who wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin," but we know nothing about her "scatless knickers." Believe they've gone out of fashion, anyway.

J. H. (Nantwich).—Verses better and worse than some. "Long as he rules to serve, God grant we may not swerve." Makes us think of being on a bicycle in the dark.

MRS. T. (Southsea).—"Are we allowed an ounce of butter or not?" Yes, if you can get it. Usually you can't.

A. S. W. (Edinburgh).—"You yourself often do a good round swear." You are mistaken; the most we ever permit ourselves is a bquare cuss.

J. A. (Altrincham).—Kind of you to indicate "one of the things to smack at." Can you lend us a rolling pin?

H. (Paddington).—It is not sufficient for a "Bullet" to be a mere phrase, however true. It must also be apropos, witty, or humorous, or all three.

E. S. (Grasby).—Your analogy between poaching a wild rabbit and coming into our office to steal a copy of JOHN BULL is squint-eyed. JOHN BULL is the product of our own efforts, [illegible] as a wild rabbit does not owe its existence to any man. Think again.

G. M. L. (Stoke Newington).—"Old King Coal is a stingy old soul." The rest of your poem is distinctly napoo.

J. K. (H.M.S. *Hercules*).—"Which is the largest dock in the world?" Can't say for certain, but there's a big one at the Old Bailey, which we should advise you to keep out of.

DVR. L. (Hosp., Hemel Hempstead).—"Who is the best violinist, Kubelik, Heifetz, or Elman?" Our money (2d.) goes to old Brown, who plays the fiddle outside the corner pub.

C. L. (Battersea) and OTHERS.—The statement that Mr. Leo Stormont's poem, "Remember," could be obtained free upon application to the author was published under a misapprehension. The recitation of it is creating quite a *furore* upon the variety stage, and naturally its wide dissemination is against his professional interests. However, Mr. Stormont has been generous enough in certain cases—particularly where the applicants have been Service men—to send a copy as a matter of grace, but his stock is now exhausted.

(Many replies are unavoidably held over.)

A BARGAIN INDEED.

Clipstone Camp,
Mansfield, Notts.

Allow me to thank you for the "JOHN BULL" Pen received two weeks ago. I have given it a good trial and am satisfied with it in every way. I previously had a pen which cost 10/6, but the "JOHN BULL" Pen is equal to it in every respect, being absolutely a bargain.

Yours etc.,
(Signed) BANDSMAN J. T. BROOKS.

"JOHN BULL" Pen Coupon. Value 2d.

By sending this Coupon with P.O. for 3s. and 1½d. stamps for postage, the holder is entitled to receive a "John Bull" Gold Nibbed Fountain Pen, STANDARD MODEL. Additional Coupons up to 6 from "John Bull" from this date may be saved and used in part payment, each counting as 2d. off the price. Thus, you may send 7 coupons, and P.O. for 2s. only, and 1½d. stamps for postage.

DE LUXE MODEL, 1s. Extra.

Address, Pen Dept., JOHN BULL, Long Acre, London, W.C.2. *(Jan. 18th, 1919.)*

P.O.'s should be made payable to John Bull, Ltd., and crossed & Co.

N.B.—State whether you prefer a Fine, Medium, or Broad Nib.

G. R.

Ministry of Labour.

DEMOBILISATION OF THE ARMY

THE ARMY COUNCIL gave notice on January 5th that the following arrangements have been made in regard to demobilisation and conditions of Leave:—

I.—FUTURE CONDITIONS OF LEAVE FROM FRANCE.—From a date to be fixed, and to be announced later, no officer or soldier will be permitted to proceed to England on leave from France except on the distinct understanding that he returns to his unit on the expiration of his leave and that he will not be demobilised, on any pretext whatever, during his period of leave. This order will take effect from the earliest date by which it is possible to instruct all sections of the Expeditionary Force, so that in future no man can be unacquainted with the conditions on which leave is granted. Experience has shown this order to be necessary to ensure the maintenance of the Army of Occupation, the *personnel* of which must receive leave in their turn. It is undesirable to release men in the order laid down by the leave rosters, which are prepared many weeks in advance. It has been found that in a high proportion of cases leave drafts from France now consist of men who have been overseas for six or nine months only, and the demobilisation of all men on leave would thus be unfair to long service men still overseas, and in many cases would not lead to the release of men most urgently required in the national interest. There is nothing in this new arrangement to preclude any man on leave from taking steps to ensure that civil employment will be awaiting him when his turn for demobilisation arrives. On the contrary, he should make every effort to take back with him a definite promise of employment, which he should hand to his Commanding Officer for registration. ***

II.—INSTRUCTIONS FOR OFFICERS AND MEN AT PRESENT ON LEAVE.—Officers and men who may now be on leave from France, and any who may come on leave before the date by which they could have been acquainted with the new conditions, will be dealt with as follows:—

All men, without restriction as to corps or arm of the Service, who have assured civil employment awaiting them, provided that they have been approved as demobilisers or pivotal men, or have pre-war employment contracts from their employers,*** and those belonging to the industrial groups or classes opened for demobilisation and detailed below, and who can be spared from the Army, will be demobilised in accordance with the arrangements now in force. If a man's warrant is marked "To return to his unit" leave will be extended until telegraphic inquiry has been sent to his unit in order to ascertain whether his return is essential. The necessary instructions, or orders, or extensions of leave can be obtained from any O.C. Unit, Depôt, or Headquarters in the United Kingdom.

It must be clearly understood, however, that offers of pre-war employment must be certified before they can be recognised. Claims for demobilisers and pivotal men, and men for special release, must be certified by the Ministry of Labour; pre-war employment contracts must be certified by the local Advisory Committee attached to the nearest Employment Exchange to the place of employment in case of men, and by the appropriate District Directorate of the Appointments Department, Ministry of Labour, in the case of officers. The address as may be obtained on inquiry at any Employment Exchange. Further, it is important that applications for release should be submitted as early as possible during the period of leave, in order that there may be sufficient time to arrange for extensions if necessary.

Men who have no definite employment awaiting them will return to France.

III.—OTHER EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.—All ranks, without restriction as to corps or arm of the Service, on leave in this country from Expeditionary Forces other than France will be demobilised if they have definite employment awaiting them, provided that they come within the industrial groups or classes which are open for demobilisation.

INDUSTRIAL GROUPS OPEN.

IV.—CLASSES AND INDUSTRIAL GROUPS NOW OPEN FOR DEMOBILISATION THROUGHOUT THE FORCES AT HOME AND OVERSEAS—

(1) Coalminers (Group 3).
(2) Demobilisers.
(3) Pivotal men.
(4) Men specially recommended for release by the Ministry of Labour.
(5) Men with certified offers of employment (commonly called "contract" men).
(6) Slip men (*i.e.*, men in respect of whom A.F.Z. 19A or 19B have been sent by the Ministry of Labour).
(7) Men over 41 years of age who are qualified as under:—
  (a) With completed normal engagements, including the additional year under Section 87 (1) Army Act.
  (b) Posted under the Military Service (No. 2) Act, 1918.
  (c) Voluntarily enlisted for the duration of the war and who were 41 on April 18th, 1918.
(8) Officers and soldiers from hospitals, Command Depôts, and convalescent camps, after 28 days in hospital.

The industrial groups open for making up drafts for demobilisation, if there is sufficient transport available after the above classes have been exhausted, and after in all cases 10 per cent., chosen by length of service in the field, have been included, are:—

Agriculture (Group 1).
Seamen and fishermen (Group 2).
Paper printing and bookbinding (Group 10).
Shipbuilding (Group 22).
Building trades and construction of works (including navvies) (Group 30).
Carters, carmen, etc., of horsed vehicles (Group 33).
Employees of public and local authorities and public utility companies (Group 35).
Students and teachers (Group 41).

It must, of course, be understood that both overseas and at home dispersal drafts must be composed of men of all the above classes and groups in varying percentages.

V.—COMMANDS AT HOME.—Men serving in units at home must in all cases be sent for demobilisation from their units, and in no circumstances can a man on leave from a home unit be demobilised during his period of leave. This procedure is imperative in order to secure the rights of the man himself (including the settlement of balances of pay and allowances to which he is entitled), and to eliminate the risk of breakdown in the Pay Offices and Record Offices, which can only be done if demobilisation is carried out on systematic lines. Moreover, in the case of demobilisers and pivotal men on leave from home units, very often orders for the demobilisation await their return to their units, and it is administratively impossible to secure the delivery of the necessary documents to them at addresses where they may be temporarily resident during their leave.

The Employment Exchanges are ready to advise you.

***CONTRACTS FROM EMPLOYERS.

"Pre-war employment contracts" are statements from pre-war employers in the following terms:—

> I/We (full name and postal address of employer) hereby declare that (full name and naval or military number and address of employee) was in my/our employment before August 4th, 1914, and that I/we are prepared to offer him employment as a (name and occupation) immediately on his return to civil life (or give the date *after* which the employment will be available).

A man on leave obtaining this from his employer, should take or send it to the nearest Employment Exchange, where it will be authenticated. If he wishes to find out whether he may be demobilised without returning to his unit, he sends (or takes) the contract to his Record Office, where the decision is given. If he has to go back to his unit, he takes the contract with him and gives it to his Comm[illegible] Officer, who then registers him for release as a "slip" man when gene[illegible]bilisation is ordered. Authenticated offers, the form is taken to the local District Director of the Appointments Department.

Employers who wish to send contracts to their pre-war employees still with the forces are invited to do so. All they have to do is to get the contract authenticated by the local Advisory Committee and then forward it to the man, who will give it to his Commanding Officer and so secure registration for release when general demobilisation is ordered.

Men in the Army, and not on leave, may write to their employers to obtain contracts. The contract does not ensure immediate demobilisation, but it does ensure registration for release as a "slip" man when general demobilisation is ordered.

Issued by the Department of Demobilisation and Resettlement, 8, Richmond Terrace, Whitehall, S.W.1.

Fill up your forms—see page ii of cover.

'BULLETS' BIG PRIZE

1ST PRIZE £1,000 1ST PRIZE

2ND PRIZE £100

10 PRIZES OF £5

3RD PRIZE £25

10 PRIZES OF £2 10

50 PRIZES OF 10/-

400 PRIZES OF 5/-

1,000 PRIZES OF 2/6

7,000 TARGET PRIZES

HOW TO MAKE "BULLETS."

First choose any of the forty examples given below. Then give **TWO, THREE** or **FOUR** words having some bearing on the examples chosen. Any **ONE** of the words selected must begin with **ANY** letter in the example chosen. The other words selected can begin with any letters in the alphabet. These examples will guide you: Example:—NOT WANTED NOW. Bullet: EXPERTS AND CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS. Example:—MY WIFE THINKS. Bullet:—WOMEN'S CANDIDATES UNDESIRABLE. Competitors may send in two BULLETS for each entry. If more coupons are used, an entry fee at the rate of 6d. for each coupon must be sent. Result of this competition will be found in our issue dated February 15th.

LIST OF EXAMPLES FOR "BULLETS" COMPETITION No. 317

THE NEW CABINET	WHEN BOTTOMLEY STARTS	IN PARLIAMENT NOW	LOSING HIS HEAD
MAKING GERMANY PAY	LOOKING AFTER TOMMY	EMPTY TALK	JERRYBUILT
LLOYD GEORGE MUST	WITHOUT OPPOSITION	LIKE A WOMAN	CHEAP AND NASTY
WHAT BRITAIN WANTS	WE WON'T FORGET	A DUD LOT	A QUICK CHANGE
DRIVEN HOME	MY WIFE THINKS	WITHOUT A BEAT	THE OLD GANG
LEAVING THE ARMY	WHAT BABY LIKES	MY GROCER	NOT WANTED NOW
GOOD BUSINESS	CARRYING ON	FULL OF PROMISE	WHEN LOVERS MEET
EVERYBODY WONDERS WHY	A PERFECT DREAM	IN DOUBLE HARNESS	STRONGER BEER
COURTING TROUBLE	AT THE SALES	WON'T BE MISSED	STEALING A KISS
BACK TO WORK	OUR OFFICE BOY	PEACE TERMS	CALLING FOR KAISER

No._____ Closing Date, Thursday, Jan. 30th

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(317) P.O. No._____ Signed _____

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page. Address _____

If 2 coupons are used P.O. for 1/- must be sent.

IF UNABLE TO SECURE EXTRA COUPONS YOU CAN WRITE YOUR "BULLETS" ON PLAIN PAPER.

No._____ Closing Date, Thursday, Jan. 30th

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(317) P.O. No._____ Signed _____

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page. Address _____

If 3 coupons are used P.O. for 1/6 must be sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS" No. 317, "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.2

No._____ Closing Date, Thursday, Jan. 30th

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(317) P.O. No._____ Signed _____

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page. Address _____

If 3 coupons are used P.O. for 1/6 must be sent.

No._____ Closing Date, Thursday, Jan. 30th

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(317) P.O. No._____ Signed _____

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page. Address _____

If 4 coupons are used P.O. for 2/- must be sent.

Selection of Examples for "Bullets" Competition No. 318

BOTTOMLEY EXPECTS—WHEN FATHER WORKS—THE RIGHT MAN—SHY KISS—TALKING ABOUT PEACE—PUTTING IT OFF—TOMMY'S GRIEVANCE—GERMAN BOLSHEVISTS—SHOCKING DELAY—IN THE HOUSE—IN WRONG COAT—WHAT HAS LIKES—LOOKING FOR MAID—OWING TO WOMAN—CAN'T DO WITHOUT—FULL UP—BUTCHER'S BOY—A BIG RUSH—POPPING THE QUESTION—WORK FOR ALL.

These examples can be made use of on the coupons above, and must reach us on or before **10.0 28th, 1919, GARY 8th.** All coupons so used **MUST** be clearly marked with the number **318** in the top left-hand corner, and envelopes containing these coupons must be addressed "Bullets," **No. 318,** "John Bull," Long Acre, London, W.C.2. Such coupons must not contain any of the forty examples for competition **317.**

Result of 314th "Bullets" Competition.

FIRST PRIZE OF £800:

Mr. JOHN SLAVIN,
38, Central Street,
Dewsbury, Yorkshire.

Example:—MAN OF BUSINESS.
Bullet:—MUST KEEP "SPARING" OUT.

SECOND PRIZE OF £50:

Cpl. W. BOUGHTWOOD,
267, Area Employment Coy.,
22nd Corps, Headquarters, B.E.F.

Example:—WHAT BRITAIN WANTS.
Bullet:—MEAN, TOM "CONSCIENTIOUS" OBJECTOR.

THIRD PRIZE OF £10:

Miss DORA WOOD,
50, Newton Rd., Ipswich.

Example:—A FAIR EXCHANGE.
Bullet:—GIVES THOUGH WHAT PAYMENT?

20 PRIZES OF £2 10s. EACH:

Mr. A. YATES, 7a, Colson St., Ardwick, Manchester:
UNDER THE MISTLETOE—TOMMY LIKES "SPORTING OUT."

Mr. W. SEADEN, 5, Alfred Terrace, Rhyl:
WHAT BOTTOMLEY WILL DO—BLOW TRADITIONS, HAVE EXPECTATIONS.

Mr. W. HOLMES, 11, Farncombe Road, Gillingham, Kent:
WELL FILLED SOCKING—SHOW NO MEAT SNOOPING.

Mr. R. CRAIG, 5, Montague Gdns., Dowt:
WHAT PARTNER OF MINE—NO "PERFECTS," PLEASE "MEAN."

Mr. G. WARDLE, 24, Fyde St., Willenhall:
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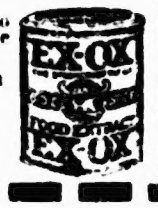

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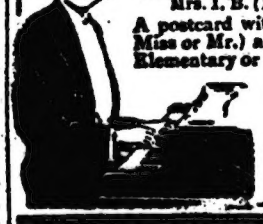

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